And holds thée for chiefe in field & towne, & will be ready at thy somonse.
The king Ermine was glad and blithe, and blessed Beuis often sith:
And said faire daughter Josian, I pray thée lowe disarme this man
Lead him to a chamber, Mahound him saue, for therein he may rest haue.
And serue him both of meat and drinke, of the best that you may thinke.
Then faire Josian was right glad, and to her chamber him she led.
And Beuis was set soft on a bed, the bordes were layd and tables spred.
When shée had disarmed Beuis, at a bord she set him ywis.
And made them well at ease and fine, with rich meat and noble wine.
When they had well eaten, and on a bed togither sitten.
Josian that was so true, thought shée would her loue reuue.
She sayd, Beuis I vow to thée, aboue all thinges I do lone thée.
And if thou lone mée not againe, I shall be dead through woe and paine.
Then said Beuis bée thou still, mée thinks thou speakest without skill.
Thou mayst haue all vnliche, the king Brademound that is so riche.
In all the world is no man, neither King, Duke, or Soudan,
But they would haue thée to their Quéene, & if they had thée once séene.
I am a knight of strange land, and haue no more then I in stand.
Mercy Beuis said Josian, I had rather haue thée for my lemman,
Thy body in thy shirt naked, then all the good that Mahound maked.
Beuis thée sayd, tell mée thy thought: Beuis sat still and said nought
Shée fell downe and wept sore, saying thou saidst here before,
Ther is no king that mée hath séen, but that hée would haue mée to quéene.
And thou thinkst on mée great spight, wend thou out of my chãber right.
More comely it were thée like, for to hedge and make a dike,
Then now for to bée dubbed a knight, & to dwell among maydens bright.
Go churle, and euill mayst thou fare, Mahound giue thée sorrow & care.
Damosell he sayd, I am no churle, my father was both knight and Erle.
To my countrey I will mée hye, neuer after thou shalt mée sée.
Thou gauest mée horse, take him héere, I keepe not to bée in danger.
Beuis went forth hée would not blinne, till hée came into his Inne.
Sore grieued was hée were blamed, for Josian had him so ashamed.
The two knights that Beuis loued, asked him who had him grieued.
Beuis sayd neither good nor ill, but sat him downe and held him still.
When Beuis went Josian fro, then did begin all the woe.
Then she called the Chamberlaine Boniface, and his helpe in that case.
To Beuis on message shée him send, and sayd shée would at things amend,
All that shée did say truly, and pray him for to come to mée.

4° C 39 Art. Seld. (2)

# SYR BEVIS OF Hampton.

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Hamton.

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# ¶THE HISTORIE OF
## Beuis of Hampton.

LYsten Lordings and hold you still, of doubty men tell you I will,
That haue ben in many a stoure, & held vp England in great honor,
That before this time hath bene, by a knight it is that I meane,
sir Beuis of Hamtō ỳ knight hight, ỳ neuer was proued a coward in fight.
And by his father that hight sir Guy, a godly knight and full hardy,
And how sir Guy betrayed was, through his wife, alas, alas,
That time was Guy of great renown, Earle he was of South-hampton,
In Christendome farre and nere, of doughtines was not his peere.
None was so hardy nor so strong, he loued the right and not the wrong,
While sir Guy was yong & light, known he was for a doughty knight,
In euery land he rode and yede, for to winne him price and mede,
In fraunce, in flanders & in Almain, in Brabant, in Cicele & in Britain.
In Denmark, Gallice & in Gascoyne, in Yungarie, Calabre & Burgon,
In Pole, in Normandy and Payn, in Turky, Nabrant and in Spayn,
In Eastland, Norway & in Picardie, in Scotland, Wales & in Lumbardy
In christendom & also in heithines, ful wel is known sir Guyes worthines
In all the lands of Christentie, was none found so good as he,
While he was yong and iolife, would sir Guy wed no wife,
But when that he was olde, he waxed feeble, croked and cold,
Than toke he his leaue of Chiualrie, and dwelled in England certainly.
In that time king Edgar anon, sent after Sir Guy full sone,
For sir Guy was true and wise, and known for a knight of prise,
He made him high steward of his land, & whatsoeuer he said it should stād,
He kept well England in his daies, and set peace and stable lawes.
That no man was so hardy, to do an other villany,
Upon a day thought sir Guy, that he would wed some faire Lady,
And haue betweene thē some Children fair, ỳ of his land might be heir
The king of Scotland in that tide, had a daughter of much pride.
The Emperours brother of Almayn, loued that lady as men sain,
And so did Guy God him saue, and of her Father he did her craue,
The king of Scotland for thy, gaue his daughter vnto sir Guy,
Against ỳ wil of his daughter bright, she had leuer haue had ỳ other knight
For he was yong and bolde, but sir Guy was waxen olde,
Alas that euer he her to him chose, his owne lyfe for to lose,

Sir Guy wedded that Lady fræ, & brought her hom to his country,
So long to bed he her ladde, that a manchild together they had.
Beuis they called that childe bold, hée was no more then ſeuen yéere olde,
When that his father he was ſlain, with ſir Murdure of Almain,
That Lady bethought her vpon a day, vnto her ſelfe gan ſhée ſay,
My lord is olde & may not worch, all day he bideth in the Church.
What for bruſing and what for age, he loueth not with me to rage,
But had I taken a yong knight, y he had not bæne bruſed in fight,
He would loue mée both day & night, & make mée all y mirth hée might,
Truly it ſhalbe thus no while, I ſhall let ſlay him with ſome guile.
After the meſſenger the Lady ſend, that before had bæne her friend,
She ſaid thou ſhalt on my meſſage, thy ſelfe alone without any page,
So that thou kéepe my counſail, I ſhall quite well thy trauail,
Madame he ſaid holde you ſtill, for I will do after your will.
The Lady was then glad and fain, goe thou ſhe ſaid into Almain,
And greet wel from mée ſir Murdure, brother to the Emperour,
And bid him in the firſt day, of the month of May,
That he in the Forreſt bée, well armed with his meynye.
Bid him that it be not leued, but that my Lord be there hedded,
And ſend it mée for a preſent, my Lord ſhall naked to him be ſent,
If he me loue that ſhall I ſée, goe forth and gréet him thus by mée,
The Meſſenger to the Water yéede, alas the winde was all for ſpéed,
Into Almain he was brought, to y Court he went he forgot it nought,
And aſked ſome of one an other, til he came to y Emperours Brother,
And toke the letter into his hand, the Lord it read as he there found,
Now truly may I well ſée, how that Lady loueth mée.
Gladder I am though I it ſay, then any tongue tell may,
All her will I meane to do, gréet her well and ſay to her ſo,
Haue bére a ſtéed for thy trauaile, with treaſure charged without faile,
And if it ſtand in main and might, I my ſelfe ſhall make thée a knight,
The meſſenger thanked him then, and to England hée is gone,
To Hampton he came ſo in feare, of his enemies that wer there,
And ſaid my Lady God thée ſée, well ſir Murdure gréeteth thée,
Glad he is of thy meſſage, full well he hath quit my voyage.
And certainely he will be preſt, with a great hoaſt in your Forreſt
Thy Lord to aſſail with main and might, thy loue to winne lady bright,
When the meſſenger had all ſaid, the Lady held her well apayd,
In the firſt day of May, the Lady fayned her ſicke and lay.

She made a man her Lord to call, and saide an euill did her befall,
The Earle for her had sorow & thought, & asked her if she would ought,
Sir thée said might I it get, of a wilde Bore I faine would eat,
Dame he said and loue mine, where might I finde the wild swine.
That might once glad thée, sir in your Forrest brédeth hée,
Dame he said make good solace, for to that Forrest I will goe chace,
And thée said with treason then, blessed be thou of all men,
The Earle a courser gan bestride, his sword he hanged by his side.
There might no man with him rin, he was the formost man therein.
Alas that he had béene ware, of his enemies that were there,

But when he came to the Forreſt, and in chaſe after the beaſt,
Him thought he heard ſir Murdure, cry aloud ſir Guy thou traytour.
And priked out before the hoaſt, for pomping pride to make great boaſt,
And to ſir Guy gan he ſay, yeald thée traytour for by my faye,
Thou and thy ſonne both dead ſhalbe, for the loue of thy Lady frée,
For I her loued or thou her knew, if thou her haue it ſhall thée rew.
Sir Guy him anſwered with reaſon, and ſaid alas héere is treaſon,
Yet will I ſo God mée mend, héere in my right mée defend,
Either then gan other defie, then ſpurred his ſtéede good ſir Guy,
And ſmote ſir Murdure with a ſpear, out of his ſaddle he gan him bear.
Traitour he ſaid ye and coward vnbolde, wéeneſt thou though I be olde,
That I ſhould of thée be aſhamed, with ỹ ſir Guy his ſword out wreſted,
And would haue ſlain that falſe knight, had not ſuccour come ful right,
Sir Murdures men hyed them ſo, againſt ſir Guy they were full thro.
Sothly ſir Guy defēd him can, an hundreth hée ſlew with his hāds than,
Had he béen well armed iwis, all the maiſtry had béen his.
By than ſir Murdure was horſed again, Sir Guyes horſe they had ſlain,
Alas his horſe was ſlain that ylke ſtound, ſir Guy was felled to ỹ groūd.
For had his horſe liued that tide, he had abated all their pride,
When ſir Guy was on foote without leſſe, all they gan about him preſſe,
You neuer heard of an olde man ere, that fought ſo long as he did ther,
Then knéeled Guy to ſir Murdure, and ſaid mercy and ſuccour.
And ſayd Murdure for thy gentry, thus cowardly let me not dye,
But lend mée horſe armour and ſhéeld, and let mée dye here in the féeld,
And if with mée thou wilt do ſo, I thée forgiue if thou mée ſlo,
Then cryed they all in this wiſe, ſlay him that hée neuer riſe.
With that ſir Murdure to him yede, and ſone ſmote of his head,
To a knight hée toke his hed in hand, goe he ſaid and beare this ſond,
To the Counteſſe that is ſo bright, ỹ ſay I come to her boure this night,
The knight went to that Lady gent, ỹ ſaid Madame haue this preſent.
My Lord thée ſent it ſir Murdure, this night he commeth vnto thy bour,
This gift ſhe ſaid is leſe to mée, and thanked ſir Murdure of his gentry,
And ſay I am all at his will, Early and late loud and ſtill,
The meſſenger went his way, and tolde his Lord what ſhe did ſay.

How Beauis keept ſheepe vpon the down, & how that he left his ſheepe and went to his Fathers houſe and how he ſlew the Porter, with other things that he did there.

NOw will we of yong Beuis tel, how he was e how him befell,
Alas he ſaid and all for ſorn, that I had not with my father bene,

To

To haue hope him in that stoure, against that false théefe sir Murdure,
To his mother he ran and said, why hast thou my Father betraid.
I will be auenged on his bane, alas that euer thou were woman,
And all whores for thy sake, to the deuill of hell I them betake,
But an oth mother I do sweare, If euer I may armes beare,
I shall be auenged with might & mayn, on thē that haue my father slayn.
His mother his words vnderstood, and gaue him a buffet on the hood,
To the groūd he fel that was harme, his master tooke him vp by ẏ arme,
Men call his master sir Sabere, that child to him was life and déere,
For Sabere was sir Guyes brother, in Englād was none such an other.
Home with the childe Sabere went, the Lady after him sent,
Sabere she said for well or for woe, my sonne Beuis looke that thou slo,
For I shall neuer glad bée, that day that I him sée,
Sir Sabere was not well apayd, but graunted as the Lady said.
Home he went with Lordes sew, and for a while a Pig he slew,
Beuis clothes that was so good, he sprinkled with pigges blood,
Sir Sabere then all for drede, clothed the childe in a poore wéed,
And said Beuis thou must kéepe, vpon the féeld all my shéepe.
Till the spousage be brought to end, & then will wée to Wales wend,
There is an Erle sibbe to thée, thou shalt there dwell and with him be,
When thou art bigge & armes to bear, & hast strength harnesse to wear,
Thē maist thou claim thine heritage, & auenge thy father be thou of age.
Then shall I help thée for to fight, with dint of sword to win thy right,
Therfore my shéepe sée thou forth driue, ẏ no man know thou art on liue,
Foorth went Beuis with Sabers shéep, vnto the féeld & sore gan wéep,
When Beuis a high vpon a down, he looked vp to South-hamptoun.
And as he beheld toward the Towre, trumpets he heard and Tabour,
Harping there was & much blisse, in the place ẏ should haue béene his,
Lord he said of mée thou art gouernor, was not I an erles son of honour,
I will no longer dwell in this downe, I will home to Southhamptoun.
And will now sée for thy, what Murdure doth with that Lady,
He ran fast on his yate, till he came to sir Murdures gate,
Porter he said take none ill, for into the hall on message I will,
Fye rebauld said the Porter tho, whorson harlot home thou goe.
Ther was neuer mā but he wer mad, ẏ on message wuld send such a lad,
Whorson said Beuis if I be one, yet Harlot was I neuer none,
Thou shalt neuer strange man despise, haue this hée said for thy seruise,
Such a stroke he him graffe, that the braine claue to the staffe.

Beuis

Beuis into the Hall went, with ragged clothes and sléeues rent,
All about hée gan beholde, to sir Murdure he spake wordes bolde,
False théefe what dwst thou héer, why hast thou slain my father déer,
My mother it is that thou hast tane, wend forth in the diuels name.
And if thou dweil against my leue, I trust to God I shall thée gréeue,
Then said sir Murdure hould you still, thou canst no good but much ill,
Beuis hit sir Murdure at that word, that he sownded at the bourd,
An other stroke he strok sadly, with that the Lady began to cry.
Then Beuis would no longer abide, for knights rose on euery side,
For yong Beuis woe there was, they toke him not but let him passe,

Beuis went home / you hete, he met his maister amids the stréete,
What now Beuis said Sabere, for Gods sake what dost thou here.
Beaten I haue my stepfather, and slain I haue his owne Porter,
Then said Sabere thou art to blame, ther I get both harme and shame,
But betide what may betide, once againe I will thée hide,
Sabere him to chamber led, of the Countesse he was a drede.
The Countesse would neuer blin, vntill she came to Saberes Inne,
Sabere she said where is become, that vnrouth lad that strong fellon,
Dame he said he is dead, at your counsaile and at your read,
loe his clothes are all blood, thou lyest said she as thou were wood.
But thou me that lad take, thou shalt suffer for his sake,
Beuis heard that she him threat, to her he lept with hart great,
And said to her Dame, do my maister for me no shame,
The Lady said thou art bolde, now to me thy life is solde,
Sabere and an other knight, she called to her anon right,
Him to them betoke she, and bad them cast him into the sea,
And cast the boy amids the streame, & Sabere though thou be his eame,
But if thou drown this glutton, thou shalt abyd for that treason.
Gladly my Lady certes said he, the childe they led vnto the sea,
they would not drowne him for ought, but an other thing they haue thought.

## How Beauis was soulde vnto the Paynims and caryed ouer the Sea into Armeny, and was presented vnto King Ermine.

They

They found ships both more and lesse, of Panimes & of heathenesse,
they sold ẏ child wͭ much thought, & to ẏ paynimes Beues they raught
Beuis hart waxed colde, for he was to Paynims solde,
But yet him lyst not to rage, ouer they made good voyage.
their saile they draw ẏ wind was good, they sayled forth as they wer wod
Till they came to the riuer, Into the lande of Armony,
The king Ermine of that land, his wife was I vnderstand,
He had a daughter faire and bright, Iosian that faire mayde hight.
Hir visage was whyte as lilly flour, therein ranne the red coulour,
With bright browes & eyes shéene, with haire as gold were on ẏ gréene,

With comely noſe and lippes ſwéet, with louely mouth and kairs téet,
With téth white and euen ſette, her handes were ſwéet as vyolet,
With gentle body withouten lacke, well ſhapen both belly and backe
With ſmal hands & fingers long, nothing of hir was ſhapen wrong.
Wherefore ſhould I hir not deceiue, there was neuer one fairer on liue,
The Marchants are to ẏ court gone, & preſented ẏ king with Beuis anon
Therfore ẏ king was faine & blith, & thanked ẏ Marchãts an hũdred ſith,
By Mahound ſaid the king I were gaye, would the child forſake his laye,
For by Mahound that ſitteth on hie, yet ſaw I neuer childe with eye
That bare ſo much faireneſſe, neither in length nor in brodeneſſe,
Child he ſaid thy name tell me, wher thou wert borne & in what coũtry,
Sir he ſaid Beuis is my name, wher I was borne think I no ſhame.
In England my mother bare me, at South-hampton vpon the ſea,
My father thereof was Earle a while, my mother let ſlay him by a guile,
And hath me ſold to ẏ Paynimes, a wickeder woman may none be iwis,
And I may liue certinly, I ſhall auenge my father ſir Guy.
The king of Armony layd ful wel, of Guy of Hampton I haue heard tel,
Many a Paynime and ſaraſine, he hath ſlaine with much paine,
Beuis he ſaid I haue no heir, but a daughter that is faire,
And thou wilt thy Lord forſake, and to Apolin our God thée betake
I ſhall giue her to be thy wife, and all my land after my life,
Sir he ſaid that will I nought, for all things that euer was wrought,
Neither for gift that may be, nor for thy daughter that is ſo frée,
I did my ſelfe great diſhonour, if I ſhould forſake my creatour.
The king had him in no ſtaunce, for he was ſtedfaſt in his creuence,
The king ſaid Beuis while ẏ art ſwain, thou ſhalt be my chamberlaine,
When thou art dubbed a knight, thou ſhalt beare my banner in fight,
Beues aunſwered milde and ſtill, what ye me bid doe I will.
Beuis was loued of ſquire & knight, for he was courteus both day & night
Joſian gan Beuis for to loue, ouer all things that was aboue,
When Beuis was xiiii. yeare olde, knight nor Squire was none ſo bolde,
That againſt Beuis durſt ride, ne with no weapon him to abide.
The firſt dæde withouten leſſe, that Beuis did in Hathenelle,
It befell vpon Chriſtmas day, how it was I will you ſay,
Beuis rode to fielde him to ſolace, and ſixtie Saraſines alas,
A Saraſin gan to Beuis ſay, Beuis he ſaid what yight this day,
Beuis aunſwered ywis, I wote not what it is,
For I was but ſeuen yére olde, to the Hathens when I was ſolde,

Therefore

Therefore felow blame not me, if I wote not what day it be,
The Saracines said and lough, we can tell thée well inough,
This day is Christmas day, that thy God as men say,
This day thou shouldst thy God honour, with some Nobles as we do our
Beuis vnto a Saracine said, of Christendome I haue a brayd,
I wold I wer as wel armed in this place, as euer sir Guy my father was,

For his loue ỹ ware the crowne of thorne, & on this holy day was borne,
Would I iust with all the rout, then should men sée without doubt,
Whether he wer stronger in heauen, or all ỹ Mahounds ỹ you can name
Herken fellowes said a Saracine, how he dispiseth Appoline.

Yet weneth this Christen hound, that he would bring vs to the ground:
We wil no longer haue respite, who so doth best shal be sæn now right.
Turne thée Beuis, we thée defie, there is nought els but thou shalt die.
All at once on him they swong, and gaue him wounds wide and long.
Beuis had no weapon great nor small, wherewith he might defend him
Ther was no bot for him to pray, but let him do ỹ best he may (withal.
Beuis was light and quicke, and to a Sarasine he lept
And with his fist he stroke sait, that his chéeke bone all to brast.
A Sarasines sword he toke in hand, & felled al ỹ before him would stād.
There men might sée much woe, when Beuis began to goe,
To some he gaue such woundes, that they lay grinning like houndes.
The Sarasines were wight & slie, and assailed Beuis with great enuie
About Beuis the Sarasines did leape, as they had bin a flocke of sheepe.
Of some he gan the wombes downe teare, that ỹ guts trailed here & there.
There was no Sarasine that he hit, but his body asunder he cut.
Ther might none fly by no side, but Beuis made him to abide.
And Beuis within a litle stound, the sixtie Sarasins brought to groūd.
Great game had Beuis to sée then, the dead Sarasins to lie and grinne.
Here is séene said Beuis in this stound, ỹ God is stronger then Mahoūd.
The Sarasines stéedes homeward ran, without taking of any man.
And Beuis homeward gan ride, with bloudy woundes on each side.
He stabled vp his horse thoe, and to his chamber gan he goe.
To the fresh earth he layd him flat, for to stench his woundes with that.
Tydinges came to king Ermine, that in despight of his God Appoline
How Beuis had slain his men sixtie, vnto the king great shame & villany
The king swore neuer to eate bread, if it were so till he were dead.
When Josian it heard she was ful woe, and to hir father gan she goe:
And said you ought not to giue iudgement, till both parties be present.
Beuis is so mild of mood, I wote he did no man but good.
By Mahound and by Termagaunt, but if it were his defendaunt.
When we haue heard both parties, then it is time to do iustice.
Then said the king bring both to me, as Josian saith so shall it be.
Josian called forth two knightes, goe your waies, she said forth rightes,
To Beuis Chamber that is so frée, and bid him come & speake with me.
To ỹ chamber they went as she thē bad, eather other by ỹ hand they lad
When they came to the chamber dore, the one knight went in before.
And said Beuis is it thy will, to come speake with Josian thy fill.
Beuis lokt vp with grim visage, fie he said on your message.

I will

I will not once ſtirre off this ground, to ſpeake with an heathen hound.
Unchriſtened houndes I read you flée, or I your hart blod ſhal ſée.
The knightes hyed them faſt away, and vnto Joſian gan they ſay,
Lady, Beuis called thée hound, thriſe within a litle ſtound:
We would not oft wend to him for all the cittie, he loketh ſo grimme.
Yes ſaid Joſian, come with me, and certaine I ſhall your warrant bée.
With the maide forth went they, to the chamber where Beuis lay:
Beuis loked vp anone, and Joſian in her armes twaine
Toke Beuis and kiſſed him ſwéete, his mallice ſhe ſaid ſhe would wéet.
She ſayd, Beuis lemman thyne ore, thou art hurt wondrous ſore.
There is not in all Paynins land, better ſalue I vnderſtand,
Than I haue brought this ſtound, for to heale therewith thy wound,
Beuis roſe vp at her bidding, and went forth before the king.
On Beuis was told there that tide, thirtie woundes long and wide
King Ermine framed the truth and heard, how Beuis & the Saraſins farde
He had ſuch ruth and pitie, that the teares ran down plentie.
He ſayd, daughter Joſian, Heale Beuis woundes if thou can,
I would not as I vnderſtand, loſe his life for all my land.
Joſian gan Beuis to chãber lead, to ſtop the wounds they ſhould not bléd.
With ſalues & drinks ſhe healed thẽ ſoft, & euer among ſhe kiſſed him oft.
So within a litle ſtound, Beuis was whole and ſound.

## ¶ How Beuis in a morning roſe and went to the Foreſt, and ſlew the wilde Bore.

A wilde

A Wyld bore was there about, all men of him had great doubt,
And all the men that he tooke, with his tusks he all to shooke,
The bore was much & wondrous long, his head was great & so was his
euery mā was grieued both knight & king, for to come in his metīg, (tong)
Lord said Beuis vpon a day, whether it be as men doe say,
Certes my hart shall neuer be sore, till I haue foughten with the bore,
Beuis rose vp early vpon a day, and saddeled his good palfray,
Be tooke a s woord stiffe and strong, a good shield and a speare long,
And then he pricked ouer the fielde, Josian saw and all behelde,
when Beuis came to the wood he shoke, his shield about his necke he tooke

His

His horse he tyed to a thorne, and began to blow with his horne:
All about the Forrest he sought, but the bore found he nought,
Till he came to the Beuils denne, there found he slaine many men:
That in the wood the bore slew, the bloud he dranke, and ỳ flesh he gnew.
Rise he said thou foule beast, against me battaile see thou beast.
When the bore of Beuis had an eye, he set his bristles all on hye.
And stared with his eies all hollow, as he would sir Beuis swallow.
Of thée said Beuis I haue mernaile, well I haue set my trauaile.
A speare to him Beuis did beare, in seuen peeces he burst it there.
All to weake that speare was wrought, for in the bore bote it nought.
His sword he drew him to were, but there might no dint him feare.
Beuis thought at each dint, that he had smitten vpon a flint.
The bore smote at Beuis so hard, that he was nére faint coward.
Without rest fought they, till it was none on the day.
Lord said Beuis helpe and mercie, I am so weary me thinke I die.
The bore was féble and faint also, and from Beuis gan he goe.
Then sayd Beuis yet will not Jesu, that I should lose my vertue.
Betide sayd Beuis what may betide, the one of vs shall death abide.
Beuis met the bore in the plaine, the bore saw that he turned agayne.
As he came gaping all to wonder, the ouer grone he smote asunder.
In at the mouth the bore he bare, and clone his hart asunder there.
And with his sword all in hast, the bores head he off cast.
And on a troncheon of a speare, the head he sticked for to beare.
That saw the foulers of that forrest, that Beuis had slaine that foule beast.
They sayd, wée haue great disdaine that he hath this bore slaine.
Goe we to him we shall him slay, and take the head from him away.
Then shall we haue all the honours, right as we were conquerours,
As Beuis should from the forrest ride, they him beset on euery side.
The twelue foulers were armed each one, and Beuis was naked al alone.
Whé Beuis wold hãd on his sword lay, the scaberd he found ỳ sword was away.
For he had left his sword thore, whers he slew the wilde bore.
Then had he nought to weare, but the troncheon of a speare.
The Foulers smote he downe, with the stroke of a troncheowne.
Nine Foulers he slew at dintes thrée, and other thrée away gan flée.
Beuis went with the head away: all saw Josian where she lay.
Such loue on him she cast, that neuer failed, but euer did last.
The head of that wilde swine, Beuis presented king Ermine.
Then at the first rose Beuis price, that was both curteous and wise.

SOne after not long during, came a messenger to Ermine king,
From king Bradmound of Damas, ẏ swore by Mahound & Golyas,
But if king Ermine bleue, send Josian to be his wife.
In many wayes he would him noy, and all his land robbe and distroy.
And said in the first day of Maye, He should come and hold his day.
And take away his daughter then, and all his landes destroy and bren.
King Ermine he was wood & wroth, & sent after Erles & Barons both,
And told them without faile, that king Bradmound bad them battaile.
A word spake Josian the bright, by Mahound sir were Beuis a knight,
He would succour you right well, my selfe saw where he did fell
Nine Fosters at dintes thrée, and other thrée away gan flée.
Yet had he nought to weare, but the truncheon of a speare.
Therfore sayd the king shall we not let, but Beuis shall to vs be fet.
And then he dubbed sir Beuis a knight, & made him harnes for to fight.
Full well they gan for him puruay, with a great hoast against that day.
Beuis said the king, helpe at this néed, for all my men thou shalt lead.
Arme thée right & take thy shield, for king Bradmound bideth in ẏ field.
Beuis did on heactowne, that had worthied many a towne.
An hauberk Josiã to him brought, a better hauberk was neuer wrought.
A helmet she gaue him good and faire, there might nothing it appaire.
Then to him that faire maid gaue, Morglay a sword both fine and braue.
There was no better vnder the Sun, many a land therewith was won.
Josian gaue to him such a stéed, the best that euer on ground yéede.
Full well I can his name you tell, men called this stéed Arundell.
No horse in the world was so strong, that might him follow a furlong.
When Beuis in his saddle did light, Josian smiled that was so bright.
Beuis did his horne then blow, for that his hoast might him know.
Beuis had with him I vnderstand, of bold Barons twenty thousand.
And yet king Bradmound their foe, had thrise as many men and moe.
When Beuis came into the field, king Bradmound stood and all beheld.
A loude laughter laughed he then, when he saw ther was no more men.
Either of the hoasts gan other defie, they shot arrowes on either partie.
With bowes and alblasters of vice, they slew fast on either parties.
And when they were thus in fighting, there was earnest and no gaming
King Bradmounds banner bare Radison, he was as strong as any lyon.
Beuis at him had great enuie, either of them did the other defie.
They smote their stéeds w̃ spurs of gold, Arundel ran right as they wold
Both ẏ parties stood & beheld, how either hit other in midst of their shield.

Radisons

Radisons speare all to brast, Beuis speare held and smot fast.
That through the shield and acton, he bare the great king Radison,
The speare burst and he fel downe, in his breast he felt the troncheon.
Then king Bradmound was abashed, for in Radison all they trusted.
For they thought he was so maine, ẏ no man might stand him againe.
About sir Beuis they came rodely, to auenge his death on the other party.
And Beuis had game, & thought ful good, to bath Morglay in their bloud.
Men might see in that stound, an hundred Sarasines brought to ground.
A litle further he rode tho, and slew twice as many moe.
The Sarasines that with Beuis were, helped him fast with their power.
Men might see ouer all, heads trundle like a ball.
Many Sarasines might men meet, with guts trailing about their feete.
Some all headles gan flee, and some all shankles aboue the knee,
And some their heads off he sent, and some noseles away went.
And some fled with so great wounds, ẏ they lay grinning like to hounds.
A thousand steedes men might see then, with dead Sarasines away renne.
And all the sicke and whole, had bene before at Beuis dole.
Bradmound see his men misfare, two of Beuis knightes he tooke there.
And led them foorth, and then he fled: Beuis saw that they were bested,
And sayd abyde thou olde wretch, art thou come Joslan to fetch.
Yeeld thy prisoners vnto mee, I will deliuer them from thee.
Such stroke he gaue Bradmound, that man and horse fell to the ground.
Mercy sayd Bradmond thyne ore, let me liue and smite me no more.
The Citie with castles & towres, I shall thee giue with great honours.
Nay said Beuis I wil none of thyne, but become ẏ kings mā of Ermine.
And doo homage and fealtie, for other wages there shall none bee.
Well said Bradmound I had leuer do so, then here to dye w̄ pain, & woe.
Beuis charged him in his lay, that he would neuer by night or by day,
Wayte king Ermine any treason, but be euer ready at his summon.
And hold him of his landes as cheefe, be thou loth or be thou leefe.
Beuis was Ermines atturney, to receiue homage on that day.
When Beuis had done he let him goe, alas why did he not him sloe.
For soone after as you may heare, he serued him in worse manere.
The knights ẏ he tooke frō Bradmoūd, Beuis led foorth with him ẏ stoūd.
For great loue he would not blin, but both he led vnto his Inne.
And gaue them of meat & drinke the best, and in his bed did bid them rest.
And when sir Beuis had done so, vnto the king he then did goe.
And said, sir K. make good visage, for K. Bradmoūd hath done thee homage.

And holds thée for chéefe in field & towne, & will be ready at thy somonse.
The king Ermine was glad and blithe, and blessed Beuis often sith:
And said faire daughter Josian, I pray thée lowne vnarme this man
Lead him to a chamber, Mahound him saue, for therein he may rest haue.
And serue him both of meat and drinke, of the best that you may thinke.
Then faire Josian was right glad, and to her chamber him she led.
And Beuis was set soft on a bed, the bordes were layd and tables spred.
When shée had vnarmed Beuis, at a bord she set him ywis.
And made them well at ease and fine, with rich meat and noble wine.
When they had well eaten, and on a bed togither sitten.
Josian that was so true, thought shée would her loue reuue.
She sayd, Beuis I bow to thée, aboue all thinges I do lone thée.
And if thou loue mée not againe, I shall be dead through woe and paine.
Then said Beuis bée thou still, mée thinks thou speakest without skill.
Thou mayst haue all vnliche, the king Brademound that is so riche.
In all the world is no man, neither King, Duke, or Soudan,
But they would haue thée to their Quéene, & if they had thée once séene.
I am a knight of strange land, and haue no more then I in stand.
Mercy Beuis said Josian, I had rather haue thée for my lemman,
Thy body in thy shirt naked, then all the good that Mahound maked.
Beuis thée sayd, tell mée thy thought: Beuis sat still and said nought
Shée fell downe and wept sore, saying thou saidst here before,
Ther is no king that mée hath séen, but that hée would haue mée to quéene.
And thou thinkst on mée great spight, wend thou out of my chãber right.
More comely it were thée like, for to hedge and make a dike,
Then now for to bée dubbed a knight, & to dwell among maydens bright.
Goe churle, and euill mayst thou fare, Mahound giue thée sorrow & care.
Damosell he sayd, I am no churle, my father was both knight and Erle.
To my countrey I will mée hye, neuer after thou shalt mée sée.
Thou gauest mée horse, take him heere, I kéepe not to bée in danger.
Beuis went forth hée would not blinne, till hée came into his Inne.
Sore grieued as hée were blamed, for Josian had him so ashamed.
The two knights that Beuis loued, asked him who had him grieued.
Beuis sayd neither good nor ill, but sat him downe and held him still.
When Beuis went Josian fro, then did begin all the woe.
Then she called the Chamberlaine Boniface, and his helpe in that case.
To Beuis on message shée him send, and sayd shée would at things amend.
All that shée did say truly, and pray him for to come to mée.

Boniface

Boniface his waye is gone, to Beuis Chamber is hée come.
And sayd that Iosian had him send, and that she would all amend.
And al that shée had sayd loud and still, so that you would come her till.
Beuis sayd why should I do so? shée bad mée wend her chamber fro.
A robe gaue Beuis to the messenger, with other wédes faire and clére.
Well furred of great valour, haue this hée said for thy labour:
And gréet well thy Lady from mée, and say I will her neuer sée.
Boniface thanked him then, and to Iosian went againe.
Hée sayd my Lady make good chére, for Beuis will no more come héere.
Certes Madam yée did vnright, for to missay a noble knight.
For it was neuer a churles déed, to giue a messenger such a wéd.
If Beuis will not come to mée, I will not blin while I him sée.
befall me therfore well or woe, vnto his chamber wil I goe.
Iosian would no longer blin, till she came to Beuis Inne,
When Beuis heard her without, as he should slépe he began to rouke.
Beuis shée sayd awhile awake, I am come peace to make.
Faire Damosell then said hée, let me alone, and goe from me.
I am weary of fighting ful sore, so will I for loue no more.
Percy he said my lemman swét, shée fell down and began to wépe.
Forgiue me that I haue missayd, I wil that yée be well apayd.
My false gods I will forsake, and Christendome for thée to take.
On that couenant said Beuis than, I will thée loue faire Iosian.
He kissed her to accordement, and therefore was Beuis shent.
The two knights were ther that stound, ỹ Beuis tok from k. Bradmond.
They heard all their couenant, and went to the king in an instant.
And sayd, Beuis this same day, hath made Iosian forsake her lay.
And surely he will lye her bye, except ye séek some remedy.
And least that he be sent away, he will distroy all your lay.
It is true by All hallows, deliuer a théefe from the gallowes,
He shall thée waite to robbe or slo, so it fared by these knights two.
Beuis deliuered them from perill, and they requited him full ill.
Alas then sayd Ermine the king, sore I am grieued at this tyding.
Sithen that Beuis came me till, much he hath done at my will.
I would not for all Armeny, Sée any do Beuis villany.
but I would faine auenged be, so that the deed I might not see.
And then a Saracine to him said, ther may be in parchment made,
A letter vnto king Bradmound, and bid that he be brought to ground.
As he is true knight to you sworne, and by beuis shal the letter be borne.

And by Mahound I dare say, Beuis shal neuer goe quite away.
When this was brought vnto the ende, the king did after Beuis send,
And said thou shalt go forth right, & be true messenger as thou art knight.
And beare king Brademond this letter, & euermore thou shalt be ỹ better.
Some other els should sure beare it, but it shal turn thee to great profit.
Sir, let me haue Arundell and good Morglay, I dare vndertake the way.
Be Brademound neuer so wroth or wood, I shall make my partie good.
Wherfore said Ermin shenkell thou lo: thou shalt but on my message go.
Take therefore an easie hackney, that may beare thee easily away.
It becommeth no messenger to leade, on message so vncomely such a steed.
But Beuis thou shalt to me sweare, ỹ thou shalt truly my letters beare.
And if thou art true man liefe, vndoe not the print of my briefe.
Nay said Beuis on Christen Rood: he toke his letter and forth yode,
Vpon an ambling hackney, leauing at home Arundell and Morglay.
Jesu him comfort and rede, vpon him he beareth his owne deede.

LEaue we now of Beuis here, and speake we of his eame Sabere.
After that Beuis was from him sold, his hart for him waxed cold.
He called to him his sonne Terrye, and bad him wend to espye.
To Saralines land both farre and neere, if he might ought of Beuis heare.
Palmers weed thou shalt weare, so maist thou better after him spere.
He gaue him treasure for to spend, when that is done God can more send.
Forth then gan child Terrye fare, to Saralines land till he came there.
In many a land he hath sought, but of Beuis he heard nought.
Till it befell vpon a day, as afterward I shall you say.

How

How Beuis went on message to king Bradmonind, and how he fought in the Cittie of Damas against the Sarasines that made sacrifice to Idols, and how he tare them downe and cast them into the durt and afterward was taken and put in prison.

TUrne againe wher we were before, of Beuis of Hãpton to speake more.
Beuis rode forth and passed fast, toward the citie of Damas.
He rode dayes and nights both, and rested not without othe,
He rode as fast as he might ride, two or three mornowes tide.
Then list he both to drinke and eate, as a weary man doth after heate.
To sleepe he had lust the Romaines tels, ỹ might he get and nothing els.
Beuis lay downe to sleepe a stound, and let his horse baite on the ground.
When he awoke out of his sleepe, no longer he abode, but vp he did leape.
He came to a Forest faire and brode, and thetherwardes as he rode,
He saw a Palmer sit him neere, with bread and wine at his dinner.

Baken curlewes had he three, though hee seemed poore to be.
The Palmer saw beuis was a knight, he vailed his bōnet as it was right
And said to him faire loue myne, is it your will to come and dine?
For my will is so giuen to thee, therefore sir knight forgiue it mee.
Thou shalt wish me ful euen, to a man that I can name,
Beuis sayd to him agayne, hunger hath done me much payne.
Beuis eat and dranke good plentie, while he would sit and therat be.
Then to speake beuis Began, Palmer he sayd art thou a Christian?
Where wert thou borne, tell to me, and what thou dost in this countrie?
Then said the Palmer ye shal vnderstand, that I was borne in England.
At Southhampton vpon the sea, and am come into this countrye,
To séek after a child I plyght, Forsooth beuis he hight.
I shall him séek till I him finde, though I him séek to the worlds end.
To bring him to England, to helpe my father with his hand.
Against his stepfather for to fight, to win his heritage and right.
What hight thy father Palmer? sir men call him Saber.
Sir he hath bin euer in strife, sith sir Guy of Hamptons life.
I left him in an Ile full good, that is inclosed with the salt flood.
And euery yeare a day certaine, he fighteth with sir Murdure of Almaine
For to win his heritage, he doth for him great voyage.
Tell me therefore if you can, wish me right vnto that man.
Then said Beuis with milde cheare, Beuis haue I knowne this ten yeare.
It is not thrée dayes at all, sithen we were both in one hall.
Ther is no man by Gods ore, in Christendome that I loue more.
We were fellowes for thy, he told me his father hight sir Guy.
Sir said the Palmer that is he, for Gods loue let me him see.
Nay sayd Beuis it may not be so, for on a message must I goe.
but goe thou to England againe, helpe thy father with might and mayne.
For when I haue my message done, I shall speake with Beuis ful soone.
And tell him as I vnderstand, and make him to hye into England.
Perchaunce Beuis is my frend, I shall with him to England wend.
Sir sayd the Palmer in his language, to whom do ye ride on message.
To king Bradmound sayd Beuis I wend, he is my foe and not my frend.
Sayd the Palmer if thy will bée, wilt thou let me thy letter sée.
Nay sayd Beuis so mote I goe, so thought I not my selfe to doe.
It shall neuer vndone bée, till king Bradmound doth it see.
They tooke their leaue and foorth gan goe, either kissed other of thē two.
The Palmer went to England ward, and Beuis did ride on forward.

Towardes

Towardes the Citie of Damace, the which was a full faire place:
There was K. Bradmounds pallace, was neuer none richer ẏ story sayes.
For both the windowes & the walles, was painted wͭ gold, towers & hals.
Pillers & dores were al of brasse, windowes of lattin were set with glasse.
It was so riche in many wise, that it was like to Paradice.
About the place there was a dyke, for breadth and depth were few it like.
Ouer the ditch a bridge there lay, that man and beast might passe way.
Under the bridge were sixtie belles, right as the Romaines telles.
That there might no man passe in, but all they rang with a ginne.
At the bridge end there was a tower, painted with gold and asoure:
Ritch it was for to behold, thereon stood an Eagle of gold:
His eies were of precious stones, of great vertue for the nones.
The stones were so ritch and bright, that all the place shone with light.
When Beuis was néere vnto the citie, of that place meruailed he.
For sithen Beuis borne was, saw he neuer such a place.
When Beuis came the citie within, great mirth and noyse he saw begin.
The Sarasines then should sacrafice, to their Maumets in this wise.
And Beuis came néere for to sée, saying what deuill of hell doe yée?
Why make you Mahound this present, and dispise God Omnipotent?
I shall witte before I goe, what Mahound can say or doe.
Beuis lept vnto Mahound, and tooke him right by the crowne,
And cast him amidst the mire, and bad them take vp their syre.
The Sarasines that by Beuis stood, for yre & téene they were néere wood.
They swore all he should abye, for he despysed their Mawmetry.
There was no more for them to say, but all at once on him they lay.
Beuis saw that, his sword he drew, and all that would abyde he slew.
Then rose the crye in the citie, and Sarasines gathered great plentie.
About sir Beuis they gathered, because Mahound he despysed.
Beuis then did make a stoure, at each stroke he felled foure:
With the Sarasines he fought so fast, that two hundred to ground he cast.
Within awhile men might méete, heads tumbling in the stréete.
To the pallace they ranne flying, for to haue succoure of the king.
And sayd, sir wee are sore noyed, for the citie is néere destroyed,
Through a knight that hether is come, all our Gods he hath puld down,
And troden them vnder his féete, in the mire amids the stréete.
And all thy men he hath slayne, that euer did fight him againe.
Sir king but we haue counsell of thée, he will destroy all the citie.
King Bradmound sayd, by my God, be he a deuill, or be he wood,

What is he I will goe ſée, arme you right and come with me.
Forth they went all the rout, of the kinges Pallace without doubt.
Right on the bridge ẏ Romaines ſayes, they met him going to ẏ pallace.
When Beuis ſaw ẏ king with crowne, vpon his knées he knéeled downe.
And gaue him vp the déed with his hand, & ſayd, Jeſus that I vnderſtand,
That ſhaped al ẏ world ſo round, now giue thée ſorrow king Brademoũd.
But Mahound and Apolyne, and Termagaunt which be Gods thyne:
Let them giue thée now their bleſſing, that ſhort life, and euill ending.
Well thée gréeteth king Ermine, and ſendeth thée a letter in parchmine.
And biddeth thée his bidding doe, as thou art ſworne him vnto.
The king of Beuis receiued the déed, and gaue it to a clearke to reade.
The letter bad he ſhould him ſlo, and that he ſhould not goe him fro:
For certis if he paſſe away, he will deſtroy all your lay.
When king Brademoũd heard of this, he made therfore great ioy & bliſſe.
He ſaid, Beuis welcom to court wt ſhame, we ſhall teach thée a new game.
Thou art he that made me thrall, not onely me but my men all.
Thou ſleweſt & broughteſt my men to ground, xx. M. within a litle ſtoũd.
And haſt in deſpyte of Mahound, ſlayne my men in this ſtound.
But euer bleſſed may Mahound be, that ſent thée hether vnto me.
For I will be auenged ſone, of all the ſorrow thou haſt me done.
But wite me not Beuis verament, but blame him that thée hether ſent.
Some ſaid he ſhould be ſlayne, and ſome he ſhould be quicke ſlayne.
Some ſaid, draw him through the citie, and ſome ſaid hang him on a trée.
Beuis he ſtood ſtill and heard, of all the treaſon how it farde.
And ſaid ſir king it is no réede, to iudge me to a dogs déede.
A knight I am as well as you, therefore take your counſaile now,
And graunt me armour and ſteede, ſword and ſpeare good at néede.
Sure helme and ſtalworth ſhield, and bring me ſafe into the field.
And arme your men leſſe and more, ſixtie thouſand if they wore.
And let me die in battayle right, as is the manner of a knight.
Then the Saraſines cryed all, and to the king gan they call,
And ſayd he ſhall thy men downe ſold, if thou graunt him battaile bold.
Graunt him priſon through our read, let him be there till he be dead.
For in your priſon be Dragons two, and other wormes many moe.
And were he in your priſon brought, vnto none liueth he nought.
Bring him thether they all ſaid then, and not in field among your men.
Then ſpake king Brademound, bring him downe vnto the ground:
For he ſhall dye with much ſorrow, all Chriſtendom ſhal not him borow.

About

About Beuis gan they driue, as Bées do about an hiue.
When Beuis saw none other rest, then he began to doe his best.
With his sword he stood at defence, against them all in their presence.
Sir Beuis fought that it was wonder, till his sword burst in sunder.
Alas sayd Beuis and well away, now I want good Morglay.
But nerertheleſſe Beuis, brought to ground with his fiſtes:
Sirtie Saraſines to ground he cast, after that his sword did brast.
But euer they gathered moe and moe, and toke Beuis with much woe.
And bound together his handes so fast, ỹ al his fingers on blood out brast.
They led him straight into the hall, and set him downe in a knights stall.
A knight him fed with meat & drinke, whatsoeuer he would after thinke.
The king bad Beuis eat fast, for this he sayd shall be thy last.
An hundreth Saraſines stood then, about Beuis with swordes drawne.
In chaunce if his handes out brast, then should he make them all agast.
Whē Beuis had eatē & made him glad, into ỹ prison they made him be lad.
When he was at the ground, Beuis handes they vnbound.
For they were sure and fast, that he should not make them agast.
In the prison when he came downe, there he found a short trunchone.
In his handes the same he toke, and saued his life so sayth the booke.
A water through the prison ranne, and bare the filth from the man.
He had not bene there but a whyle, not the mountenance of a mile.
But two Dragons of much might, against sir Beuis came to fight.
Fast fought both he and they, all the night and all the day.
The two Dragons neuer stayde, till they had Beuis weary made.
But by the other day at none, these two Dragons were fordone.
His staffe was broken all away, but litle in his hand did stay.
When these two Dragons were dead, then could Beuis no better read.
But thanked Jesu that all shall winne, of all the care that he was in.
Seuen winters he was thore, meate he had euermore.
But once a day without lesse, of Wheat branne he had a messe.
For to length withall his life, in pouertie and in great strife.
Bread of corne eate he none, but of water he had great wone.
Rats and Mice and such small chere, was his meat that seauen yeare:
Thus is Beuis in prison ground, God bring him out whole and sound.

## ¶How Iosian demaunded her father for sir Beuis, and of the sorrow that shee made.

Speake we of Iosian that mayd, vnto her father how she sayd.
Sir Beuis she sayd where is he, ful long me thinketh til I him se.
Daughter he sayd I vnderstand, that he is gone into England.
And liueth on his heritage, he hath a wife of great parentage.
A kinges daughter wedded hath he, a marchant ywis told it mée.
Then was Iosian full woe, and to her chamber gan she goe.
And wept sore for sir Beuis, and thought some treason here is.
There is no man can tell the sorrow, that she made both euen & morow.

¶How King Iour wedded faire Iosian.

OF Pambrant the king called Jour, a ritch king & of great treasure:
Is come fayre Josian to wedde, and of her father he him spedde.
That graunted her to his wife, and his land after his life.
Whē Josian heard she should be Quēne, against her will it was I wēne.
She had leuer withouten lesse, to haue bene sir Beuis countesse.
Neuertheless, sith it is so, against her father she durst not doe.
Euer she said, good sir Beuis, hinde knight of Southhampton is.
Haddest thou neuer me forsake, but some treason did it make.
I shall neuer so vntrue be, as thou art Beuis vnto me.
I shall goe now and make me a writte, through a clarke wise of witte.
That no man shall haue grace, while these letters are in place.
Against my will to lye me by, nor do me shame nor villany.
She caused the letters to be wrought, on the maner as she had thought.
And put it about her necke, so that no man should her checke.
When it was to the time sped, that king Jour should her wedde:
He sent for many noble men, or the Soudan of Babilon then.
And for the Soudan of Persy, it is no time their names to discrye.
And prayed them both with him to be, when he should wed that lady frée
When this feast should beginne, euery knight went to his Inne.
When the feast was all done, king Jour would home come.
With Josian the lady bright, that euer was true both day and night.
Josian was brought to him there, with much thought and much care.
King Ermine toke Arundell, and sadled him godly and well.
And toke with him good Morglay, and to king Jour gan he say.
Haue here I giue thee this steed, stalworth and good at neede.
Haue here Morglay of steele browne, both they were Beuis of Hampton.
King Jour thanked him then, and pricked forth before his men.
They were not fully at Pambrant, but the king said by Termagant,
That he would into the citie ride, on Arundell before his bride.
On Arundell when he was brought, Arundell had in his thought,
That it was not sir Beuis, that on his backe did sitte ywis.
He leaped ouer ditch and thorne, ouer bryer and ouer corne,
Would he neuer blinne running, till he had cast downe the king.
So sore to ground he him cast, that his backe all to brast.
And had not some come succour, he had then slaine king Jour.
They toke the horse with much slight, and led him to the pallace right.
With great ropes they him bound, there was no meat before him found.
Neither otes nor water cleere, there he stood that seuen yeare.

But that Joſian him brought, and that will the king right nought.
For his men could not him read, with ſtaruing for to haue him dead.

IOſian is now Quéene, Beuis in priſon with much déene.
Strange wordes were ther before, he curſed the time ỳ he was borne.
His haire hanged long and ſide, full ſimple then was his pride.
On a day Beuis would ſléepe, an Adder great did on him créepe.
And ſtinged him ſore without lye, vpon his brow aboue his eye.
Beuis waked and loud gan crye, and ſaid Jeſu my Lord mercie.
This Adder hath bitten me ſore, out of my life I would I wore.
Helpe Lord and if it be thy will, and let me neuer in priſon ſpill.
With that an Angell come is, and appeared vnto Beuis.
Gods Angell he ſaw by his ſight, by whom the worme loſt her ſight.
And before him all to braſt, Beuis ſaw it and laught faſt.
Sir Beuis was feeble and faint, to Jeſu Chriſt he made complaint.
And vnto his mother Mary, and rufully began to crye.
Lord he ſaid of heauen King, that ſhapedſt me and euery thing:
What offence haue I done to thée, that hence thou wilt not helpe me?
The Saraſines do me much woe, haue mercy on me O Lord do ſo.
Now giue me grace heauen to winne, and out of priſon that I am in.
The two wardes heard his complaint, how feéble he was and how faint.
The one ſaid heareſt thou this felowne, how he diſpiſeth our Mahound?
He wéeneth that his God may him ſaue, and ſuccour thinketh he to haue.
But by Mahound it ſhall not gaine, I ſhall not reſt till he be ſlaine.
And ſodainly at that word, he let a lampe downe by a cord.
And ſayd, come downe when I call, to helpe what euer me befall.
Then a ſword he toke by his ſyde, and by the rope downe did glide:
And ſmote Beuis that ſtound, that he felled him to the ground.
Lord ſayd Beuis, why doſt thou ſo? now is my heart in full great woe.
Had I my ſword good Morglay, and Arundell my good Malfray:
For all Damas with their treaſon, would I not giue one button.
And now the moſt wretch of all, at one ſtroke doth make me fall.
Now were I worthy to behanged, but if I were of it reuenged.
Beuis with his fiſt ſmote ſo faſt, that his necke all to braſt.
The other cryed that was aboue, and ſayd fellow for my loue,
Haſt thou of me any néede, that I may come thée to réede.
Yea ſayd Beuis all for guile, come hether to me a litle while.
I muſt néedes haue thy read, or that Beuis be all dead.

The other Warden no longer abode, but downe the rope he slode.
And saw Beuis whole and sound, and his fellow dead on the ground.
He would haue fled vp that tide, nay said Beuis thou must abide.
Beuis with his fellowes brand, smote asunder through Gods hand,
The rope aboue the Saracines head, that to prison to his fellow he yede.
Then was Beuis glad and faine, his two wardens he had slayne.
Three dayes he lay and nought eate, he thought that life nothing sweete.
Yet was Beuis wont each day, while that he in prison lay,
Of wheat bran to haue a messe, therewith his hunger to redresse.
But when his wardens were fordone, bread ne bran eat he none.
That pennance was full strong, he thought he lined all to long.
Iesu Christ sir Beuis said, helpe me with a litle bread.
The rope may I not reach, but if thou me wish or teach.
To high he smote the rope asunder, if he it reach it were great wonder
But yet by Gods might, Beuis skipped he was ful light.
And gate the rope in his hand, and came vp I vnderstand.
When he came vp he saw no light, for it was about midnight.
But well he heard in the stable, Gromes sing and make bable.
Vnto the stable doore he went, and smote it open at a dint.
A doore barre he toke in hand, and slew all that he there fand.
A good steed then forth he brought, and sadled him well ynough.
Beuis rode to the gate ful euen, and called the Porter with milde steuen.
Rise Porter anon he said, Beuis of Hampton hath vs betraid.
Sone after the gates were vnlockt, and with that Beuis out lept.
The Porter straight his way toke, vnto the prison for to loke.
He found the wardens slaine ywis, and Beuis forth escaped is.
The Porter said, by my snout, the same was Beuis I let out.
The Porter went to the king and said, how that Beuis had him betrayd.
And slaine his wardens both in fear, the king made sorrow & heuy cheare.
There were fiue kings in the Pallaice, ỹ made him homage ỹ story saies.
To them Brademond made his mone, they armed them euery one.
A knight there was proud and fierce, men called him sir Craunders.
An horse he had of great price, the which was called Truncheſice.
He was worth his weight in gold, he would so run vpon the molde.
Sir Craunders was the first dight, on Truncheſice vp he light,
And rode after sir Beuis, well he thought to winne the price.
When he was past Damace, he saw Beuis ride apace.
He said turne thee Dogges whelpe, thy God shall thee nothing helpe.



Through

Through thée shal I get renowne, if thou be Beuis of Southhamptowne.
Then Beuis vnto him did say: it is no maistry me to slay.
For if that here I slaine bée, it is through hunger, and not through thée.
But neuertheleſſe we will assay, how well thou wilt thy duty pay.
Beuis turned him well and fayre, and rode together with great ayre.
Such a stroke he gaue Graundere, that through helme & hauberke cléere,
Hart and bodie he claue asunder, there helped no armour, ỳ was wonder.
Right to the saddle, be head myne, he clouē him downe lyke a swyne.
Beuis Truncheſice sone beſtrode, he left his owne and forth he rode.
King Brademound with all his hoast, came ryding after with great boſt.
And so fast followed they, that Beuis was driuen to the sea.
He said, if I fight so many agayne, for hunger & fæblenes I shal be slaine.
Yet will I to water flye ywis, and let God worke what his will is.
Then to be slayne among them all: helpe me Lord, for now I call.
Beuis made his horse to skippe, fortie fote in sea he leapt
The Saraſines saw that after came, how the horse with Beuis swame.
By the helpe of the Lord of might, the horse bare ouer that noble knight.
When he was the water past, the horse him rested and shoke him fast.
And for fæblenes in that stound, sir Beuis fell on the ground.
Lord sayd Beuis how hungry am I, and if I were king of Armony,
I would giue it without read, for one shiuer of browne bread.

FOrth rode Beuis with great ayre, till he came to a castle fayre.
A Lady ouer the wall lay, dame sayd Beuis I thée pray,
For his loue that dyed on trée, one meales meat giue to me.
The Lady answered him tho, from my gate I read thée goe.
An other place is better then here, for here thou gettest a cold dinner.
For my Lord is a Gyaunt, and beléeueth in Mahound and Termagaunt.
And if he know thou be a Christian, he will thée slay with much paine.
For God sayd Beuis, and I swore an othe, whether he be liefe or loath,
Here will I meate eate, to dye therefore but I it get.
The Lady was abashed withall, and went downe into the hall:
And told her Lord that was so stout, how a man had sworne without.
That he would there eate his fill, in the despite of thy will.
Yea sayd the Gyaunt, will he so, a dore barre he toke in his hand tho:
And out vnto sir Beuis he brayde, and thus vnto him he sayd.
What art thou fellow, art thou wise? where stolest thou Truncheſice?

That

That thou sittest vppon there, he was my brothers sir Grandere.
God knoweth then sayd Beuis, I shore sir Graunders crowne ywis.
When we met last in battayle, I made him Deacon withouten fayle.
And if that thou wilt order take, a Priest sayd Beuis I shall thee make.
Alas said the Gyaũt for sir Grandere, his death shalt thou abide ful deere.
To sir Beuis he smote full sore, but of Beuis he fay[illegible] thore.
And hit Trunchefice in that stound, that he fell dead vnto the ground.
Beuis start vp without respite, and to the Gyant gan he smite.
Such a stroke was not seene in no land, sithen Oliuer dyed and Rouland.
The Gyaunt saw ẏ Beuis was strong, he drew out a dart sharpe & long.

Through thée shal I get renowne, if thou be Beuis of Southhamptowne.
Then Beuis vnto him did say: it is no maistry me to slay.
For if that here I slaine bée, it is through hunger, and not through thée.
But neuertheless we will assay, how well thou wilt thy duty pay.
Beuis turned him well and fayre, and rode together with great ayre.
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Hart and bodie he claue asunder, there helped no armour, ỳ was wonder.
Right to the saddle, be head myne, he cloue him downe lyke a swyne.
Beuis Trunchefice soone bestrode, he left his owne and forth he rode.
King Brademound with all his hoast, came ryding after with great bost.
And so fast followed they, that Beuis was driuen to the sea.
He said, if I fight so many agayne, for hunger & feeblenes I shal be slaine.
Yet will I to water flye ywis, and let God worke what his will is.
Then to be slayne among them all: helpe me Lord, for now I call.
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And told her Lord that was so stout, how a man had sworne without.
That he would there eate his fill, in the despite of thy will.
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And out vnto sir Beuis he brayde, and thus vnto him he sayd.
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That

That thou ſitteſt vppon there, he was my brothers ſir Grandere.
God knoweth then ſayd Beuis, I ſhore ſir Graunders crowne ywis.
When we met laſt in battayle, I made him Deacon withouten fayle.
And if that thou wilt order take, a Prieſt ſayd Beuis I ſhall the make.
Alas ſaid the Gyaũt for ſir Grandere, his death ſhalt thou abide ful here.
To ſir Beuis he ſmote full ſore, but of Beuis he ſayn[illegible] ſhore.
And hit Trunchefice in that ſtound, that he fell dead into the ground.
Beuis ſtart vp without reſpite, and to the Gyant gan he smite.
Such a ſtroke was not ſeene in no land, ſithen Oliuer dyed and Rouland.
The Gyaunt ſaw ỹ Beuis was ſtrong, he dreiw out a dart ſharpe & long.

Through Beuis shoulder he did it shoote, the bloud ran downe to his foot.
When sir Beuis saw the bloud, for yre and téene he waxed wood.
He smote the Gyant then full ill, with all his might and all his will.
And such a stroke he him lent, that helme and head from body went.
Breast and bodie he cloue downe, with a stroke of his fawchowne.
Now sayd Beuis by Moone & Sun, I trow my meat I haue wel woon.
Dame said Beuis stay no more, but giue me meat I hunger sore.
And thus much take thou of me, of meat and drinke no niggard bée.
The Lady durst not him withstand, she led Beuis by the hand.
And serued him of bread and wine, and afterward of meates fine.
And of each messe ywis, she brought vnto sir Beuis.
He made her eate first for thy, she should do him no villany.
And drinke the first of the wine, least she had put poyson therein.
When Beuis had eaten ynough, a white kerchife he drough.
And stopt therwith his wound, to stay the bléeding in that stound.
Beuis into the stable yéede, and sadled a goodly stéede.
There would he no longer abyde, he tooke his way and foorth did ryde.
Then sir Beuis foorth rode, till he came foorth all abroad,
Vnto a fayre gréene place, Lord sayd Beuis blessed be thy grace.
And now I wold that Bradmound king, were here wt me & al his spring,
On this gréene, men should sée, whether I would from him flie.
Foorth rode Beuis by the streame, till he came to Hierusalem.
And to the patriarch he went ful swift, and of his sinnes he him bereft.
Of Josian to him he told the strife, that by right should haue bene his wife.
The Patriarch for his great truth, wept for him and thought great ruth.
He kept with him Beuis sole, till he was both sound and whole.
And forbode him on his life, that he should neuer wedde a wife.
But if she were a mayden cléene: nay sayd Beuis as I wéene.
When it came vnto the night, Beuis tooke leaue like a gentle knight.
On the morow when it was day, Beuis rode foorth on his way.
And as he rode him selfe alone, he bethought whither to gone.
Whether shall I to England fare, nay what should I do there.
Vnlesse I might an hoy gather, for to slay my stepfather.
I will he sayd to Armony, to know the cause wherefore and why,
That the king did this treason, for my goodnes agaynst all reason.
As Beuis rode forth right, he ouertooke another knight.
That would goe forth to Armony, and Beuis bare him company.
As they rode at the last, either beheld the other fast.

And either then the other knew, for sometimes they were fellowes true.
Together they killed after that, he asked Beuis of his estate.
God knoweth said Beuis and lough, I haue had sorrow ynough.
And suffered both hunger and cold, and other paines manifold.
Through the treason of king Ermine, & sure I would requite his paine,
Were not his daughter Josian, this day would I be his bane.
Josian he said is a wife, against her will with much strife.
Seauen yeare it is by Termagant, sithen king Jour of Nambrant.
Josian in Nambrant did wedde, both to boure and eke to bedde.
He hath thy sword good Morglay, and Arundell thy good palfray.
Where is Nambrant said Beuis thore? sir he said it is yonder before.
To Nambrãt ye can not reach to day, but turne you must another way.
Euer he rode forth certaine, till he came to Nambrant plaine.

NAmbrant is a ritch citie, faire and louely for to see.
When sir Beuis of Southhamptowne, came within that ritch towne.
With a Palmer there he meet, full faire either other gan greete.
Palmer he said where is the king? sir he said forth on hunting.
With many knights stout and keene, Palmer he said wher is ỳ Quéene?
Sir he said in hir towre, Palmer he said Paramour,
Wilt thou giue me thy wæde, for my clothing and my steede?
Would God sayd the Palmer, that ye had made that chaunge sir.
Beuis gaue his horse fine, for the Palmers slauine.
Beuis went to the castle gate, many Palmers he found thereat.
Beuis said brethren dære, for what thing abide you here?
They answered him that there stood, we stand here to haue some good.
Beuis said who shall it doe? the Quéene they said we beléeue so.
For all that she hath found here, euery day this seauen yeare,
Good chére them doth shé make, once a day for Gods sake.
This almes giueth she by my crowne, for Beuis loue of Southhãptowne.
Then said Beuis for Christes lore, tell me now ye Palmers pore,
When this almes shall be done, sir they said at after none.
Beuis said it is but early day, he went from them anone away.
He thought he would goe spie and see, how that it might best bee.
As he came vnder a turret, that vnder the castle was set.
He heard Josian weepe and crye, thether he went for to spye.
Alas she said, for good Beuis, the gentle knight of Southampton is.
Alas shall I neuer see that day, that once with him speake I may?

But Jeſu Chriſt I take me till, helpe me and if it be thy will,
Euery day for ſeauen yeare, Joſian that Lady fayre,
Was wont ſuch ſorrow to make, for ſir Beuis of Hamptons ſake.
Sone ſhe ſtart to the gate thore, for to bring the Palmers pore.
Beuis hyed him faſt to the gate, leaſt he ſhould haue come to late.
The Palmers preſſed in faſt, Beuis abode and was laſt.
To the hall ſhe led them euery one, but vnto Beuis ſayd Joſian anone.
Thou ſeemeſt moſt beſt to me, for I deſire to talke with thee.
Begin thou the bord Palmer, and merily goe thou vnto thy dinner.
When the Palmers were all ſet, meate and drinke ſhe did them fet.
Then gan ſhe to Beuis ſay, tell me Palmer now by thy fay,
Haſt thou heard any man tell, in any land where it befell,
Either in field or towne, of ſir Beuis of Southhamptowne?
I ſhall make them ritch without leaſing, that of him can tell any thing.
Yea Dame ſaid Beuis and lough, ſir Beuis I know well ynough.
At home in his countrie, I am an Earle and ſo is he.
For he loueth me ouer all, for either was other promigall.
At home he gaue me much to tell, of an horſe that hight Arundell.
I haue aſked in many a land, for that horſe I vnderſtand.
And ſought him both farre and nere, and each man ſayth he is here.
As yee loue that ſame knight, of that horſe let me haue ſight.
The Quéene without any fable, led Beuis into the ſtable.
The Quéene gan Beuis behold, and vnto Boniface ſhe told.
I trow ſhe ſayd by my crowne, this is Beuis of Southhamptowne.
But Beuis beard was neuer ſhorne, ſince he was of his mother borne.
When Beuis into the ſtable came, anone to Arundell he ranne,
And ſayd Arundell God thee ſaue, without the towne I would thée haue.
With thée came I neuer to Pãbrant, but wõme thou ſhouldeſt to Englãd.
Arundell in ſunder burſt chaines ſeauen, when he heard ſir Beuis ſteuẽ.
And forth he ranne out of the place, and neyghed and made great race.
Alas ſayd Joſian tho, for Arundell I am full woe.
For he will be many a mans bane, or that he agayne be tane.
Nay ſayd Beuis and lough, I can take him well ynough.
If that yée will geue me leaue, I ſhall him take without griefe.
To take the horſe ſhe him prayed, and lead him vp the Lady ſayd.
That there be no more diſtaunce, with that I ſhall thée aduaunce.
I graunt ſayd Beuis by Gods dome, whẽ Arundel ſaw his maiſter come,
He would neuer ſtart nor leape, till Beuis on his backe did ſkippe.

Manie

Beuis on Arundels backe he threw, and thereby Iosian him knew.
She sayd Beuis loue déere, ride not from me in no manner.
Thou promised me to wife to take, when I my false gods did forsake.
Helpe Beuis at this néede, for thou hast Arundell thy stéede.
I shall fetch thy sword Morglay, and lead me with thée away.
Said Beuis thou mightest me blame, it may me turne vnto shame.
I lay for thée in prison strong, seauen winters that was long.
And the Patriarch on my life, charged me neuer to take wife.
But she were a maiden cléene. And seauē yeare thou hast bene a Quéene.
And euery night a knight by thée, how shouldest thou a mayden bée?
Mercie sir Beuis then sayd she, haue me home to your countrie.
If you finde me not a true woman, in all that you say can,
Send me hether to my foe, my selfe all naked and no moe.
I graunt quoth Beuis that thou do goe, on the couenant that it be so.
Hye thée fast and make thée prest, and if with me goe thou list.
Boniface stood a litle beside, and said sir it were best abide.
Sir Beuis he sayd it is great perill, yée shall be taught a better skill.
The king is gone on his playing, and sone he wil come fro hunting.
And if he finde we be away, he will pursue vs night and day,
With all his great chiualrie, of courage stout and hardie.
Yée shall be drawne through the towne, and hanged as a false felowne,
Sir Beuis I do you read, Arundell to stable yée lead.
And at the gate ye shall abyde, for when the king doth in ride,
He wil aske you of tydinges, where you haue bene and in what landes.
Yée shall tell him redely, that you came out of Surry.
And that the land is greatly noyed, townes be burnt and men distroyed.
And that king Bradwine is, in point to lose his landes ywis.
Through Miracke and his men, of Antioch the ritch citie then.
Loke yée tell him none other, for king Bradwine is his brother.
And when he heareth this tyding, he wil goe thether with great hasting.
With all his power and all his hoast, then may we goe with litle boast.
Now sayd Beuis I hould me appayed, he led vp his horse as he sayd.
Sone after came the king from hunting, and of Beuis he asked tyding.
And all to him told Beuis thore, as Boniface told him before.
I haue great wōder said king Iour, that he sendeth not hether for succour.
The messengers were taken fiue, sir sayd Beuis by my life,
That came from king Bradwine, I tell thée by Gods payne.
King Miracke hath them in hould, I trow it be not Bradwine told.

Now said king Iour, I will hye me to that stoure.
For all I can to helpe my brother, in his right against the other,
King Iour gathered a great partie, forth he went into Surry.
But his steward sir Grally, he left at home full readily.
Then came together in that case, Beuis, Iosian and Boniface.
Now it is time said Beuis to goe, nay said Boniface, ye shal not do so.
The kings steward sir Grally, is made keeper of my Lady.
I know a grasse said he ywis, that of such vertue is,
All those that thereof drinke, it shall make their eies to winke.
And make them sleepe through might, all a day and all a nyght.
Had Grally dronk this grasse in wine, thē might we goe wō coūsail mine.
When Boniface had done this thing, vp he rose without leasing.
On the morow withouten misse, Iosian, Boniface, and Beuis,
They them puruayed as they wold, both of siluer and of gold.
They hyed them forth on their way, sir Grally awoke on the other day.
When he wist ẏ Quéene was gone, with ẏ Palmer he made great mone.
He made his men them to dight, and gathered great power for to fight.
Then he rode forth all by déene, after the Palmer and the Quéene.
All Hambrant after them drough, weapened and armed well ynough.
On euery syde a great rout, they beset Beuis round about,
Then said Beuis to Boniface, thou séest we be in strange case.
Thou shalt with hir abide here still, till I goe fight with them my fill.
They shall abye if that I may, for I haue rested many a day.
Had you neuer so good gaming, as ye shall sée when we are lamming.
Nay sayd Boniface to him tho, forsoth it shall not be so.
I shall you bring in lesse doubt, the land is beset round about.
A litle beside vs here, is a caue in a rocke néere.
Were we once, therein brought, we néede not care for them ought.
To the caue they came at last, Grally searched and ouer them past.
He went againe where he came fro, with great care and much woe.
All night in that caue they were, without meat or drinke there.
Iosian hungred on the morow sore, & to sir Beuis she complained thore.
Beuis sayd to Boniface, kéepe thou Iosian in this place.
For I will goe vpon this hill, to sée if I may ought kill,
That we may on coales cast, for Iosian may euill fast.
Forth went Beuis in that stound, with him he led a good greyhound.
And when sir Beuis went them fro, within the caue came Lyons two.
Drenning & ramping with their fet, & both on Boniface did they leape.

His horse vnto him he drought, and armed him well ynough.
And gaue vnto them battayle right, but all to feeble was his might.
For anone they him slew, and his horse all to gnew.
When they had eaten of that man, they went both to Iosian.
And layd their heads vppon hir arme, but they would do hir no harme.
For it is the Lyons kinde ywis, a kinges daughter that mayd is,
Harme ne scath none to doe, therefore lay the lyons so.
When Beuis came from hunting, in the caue at the beginning.
As he went in for the nones, saw a man gnawen to the bones,
Into the caue then went he, to see what chaunce there might bee.
Iosian sate in much doubt, and two Lyons hir about.
A sir sayd Iosian tho, come and reuenge of these two.
For right now haue they slayne, Boniface your chamberlaine.
The one Lyon will I hold, whyles yee make the other cold.
About the necke shee toke the one, and Beuis bad hir let him goe.
I say Iosian let them be, for I see well a mayden be yee.
What maistry is it them to slo, in handes when ye hold them so?
Let them come to me both, or els forsoth I will be wroth.
She let goe the Lyon without misse, and both they assaulted sir Beuis.
Strong and perillous was the fight, betweene the Lyons and the knight.
They gaue him wounds long & wide, his armour they tore on euery side.
Beuis thereat was fell and wroth, at one stroke he slew them both.
For Boniface full woe was he, but when he saw no bot would bee.
He toke vp Iosian that tyde, and on his way forth gan ride.
They had not ridden but a while, not the mountenance of a mile.
But they met with a Gyaunt, with a full sory semblaunt.
He was both mighty and strong, he was full thirtie fot long.
He was brisseled like a sow, a fot there was betweene each brow.
His lips wer great they hãged aside, his eies were holow his mouth wide.
He was lothly to loke on, he was lyker a deuill then a man.
His staffe was a yong Oke, he would giue a great stroke.
Beuis wondred I you plight, and asked him what he hight.
My name sayd he is Ascapart, sir Grally sent me hether ward,
For to bring you home agayne, and now I am glad and fayne,
That I haue you here found, for together you shall be bound.
So shall you be led to Mawbrant, with a full sory semblant.
Yet sayd Beuis, thou maist faile, by me thou mayst dye in battaile.
Of Arundell Beuis downe light, and toke him to his Lady bright.

And Beuis with a bould hart, with Morglay aſſayled Aſcapart.
Betwixt them two was great fight, ſir Beuis was nimble and light,
And ſtart away his dint fro, when Aſcapart at him did throw.
If his hart would braſt, he could not one on Beuis kaſt.
For if he had ſmitten ſir Beuis ones, he would haue braſt all his bones.

Beuis ſkipped here and thore, and gaue him woundes wide and ſore.
Then Aſcapart was full woe, and ſmote at ſir Beuis tho.
He ſmote to hit ſir Beuis crowne, his foot ſlipt and he fell downe.
And ere that he aryſe might, Beuis with his ſword was dight,
To haue ſmitten off his head, but Joſian did it forbidde.

Sir ſhe ſaid ye ſhall him ſaue, and let him liue to be our knaue,
Dame he ſaide he will vs betray, I will be his borow ſhe ſaid nay,
Aſcapart made Beuis homage, and became ſir Beuis page,
Then they went forth all three, till they came vnto the ſea.
A dromound they found there, to Chriſtendome ready they were,

There were Saraſines great plenty, and warned Beuis there to be,
When Aſcapart heard of that, anone to him he toke his bat,
He droue them out with much harme, & bare Arundell vnder his arme,
Beuis & Iolian to ſhippe he bare, he drew vp ſayle and made them fare,
They ſayled forth ſouth to ſine, vnto the hauen of Colsyne.

Beuis went into the land, and sone a frend there he fand,
The bishop of the towne Percas, to sir Beuis sibbe he was,
Beuis grēt well the bishop bold, and what he was he him told,
The bishop then was well apayd, my dēre cosin welcome he sayd.
To sē you heere I am full fayne, my minde gane me you wer slayne,
Whence he sayd is thy Lady shēne, sir Beuis said in Heathenes a quēne,
For her I have suffered much payne, & she wuld become a Christian fayne
He said what is this bad visage, sir said Beuis he is my page.
He must be christened also, though he be both blacke and blo,
The bishop Christened Josian, that was as white as any swanne,
For Ascapart was made a Phunt, and when he should therein be put,
He lept ouer the bench, and said churle wilt thou me drench,
The diuell of hell thy bane be, I am too much to be christened of thee,
The folke had good game and lough, but the bishop was wroth inough.

## How Beuis slew a fierce and dreadfull Dragon in the Land of Colayne.

NOw is Beuis in Colayne land, through the might of Christs hand,
There he gate great renowne, by the slaying of a Dragon,
For whē Launcelot du lake, fought with the burning drake,
Guy of Warwike I understand, slew a Dragon in England,
But such a Dragon was neuer sēne, as sir Beuis slew men wēne,
Beuis went to bed at night, with much ioy and torch bright,
And after his first sleping, he heard a rufull crying,
The voice sayd in his cry, Jesu my Lord on me haue mercy.
I rotte he saide bone by bone, my death is comming me vpon,
Beuis therefore had great sorow, he asked them there on the morow,
He asked them what was the cry, they answered and told why,
They sayd it was a noble knight, that was strong and bolde in fight.
And as he rode through the towne, he met with a fell Dragon,
That with venime on him throwne, the knight lay all to blowne,
And I shall tell you all the case, how the Dragon came to this place,
In the towne of Calabourre men tell, where two Dragons great & fell,
These two Dragons there ran fight, seuen yēre both day and night,
And destroyed both man and beast, on euery side both west and east,

Ther was one in that Lind, that was full of Gods sond,
He made requeſt to God aboue, that he ſhould for his mothers loue,
Delyuer out by his holy grace, theſe two Dragons from this place,
Then theſe two Dragons down fell, they had no power there to dwell,
That they flew to Tuſcayne, many men there haue they ſlayne,
From Thuſkaine into Lombardy, there they did great villany,
The one Dragon by Gods donie, flew to the court of Rome,
He there reſted his courſed bones, ſome ſay in a caue of ſtones,
Men ſay he is there yet, encloſed with Clearkes wit,
The other Dragon we vnderſtand, flew hither into Colayne land,
Within a mile lyeth he, but a mile from the ſea,
All Colayne Land round about, haue of him great doubt,

That Dragon was heere this night, & hath destroyed the said knight,
Lord Christ side Beuis tho, may no man that Dragon slo,
Certaine they sayd without fable, all Christendom is not for him able,
But if Michaell came downe, shall no man slay that Dragon,
Sir Beuis called Alcapart him to, and asked him what to do,
And sayd wilt thou with me go, for to see that Dragon wee two,
by chaunce if wee with him fight, we may him slay by Gods might,
I am ready sayd Alcapart truely, haue done anone let vs thether hye.
Beuis armed him & forth did ride, and Alcapart by his side,
When they were past the Citie, and were nere where he should be,
The Dragon cast vp such a yell, that would haue feared the diuel of hell,
Alcapart said with heauy chere, heerest thou what I do heare,
Yes said Beuis haue no doubt, the Dragon is here about,
Boldly shall we to him goe, by Gods grace we shall him slo,
Beuis rode forth a good pace, where he trowed the Dragon was,
Forsoth saide Alcapart tho, I will homewards againe goe.
For I would not for all Pauy, see that diuell that made that cry,
What diuel said Beuis art thou mad, I thought nothing might make thee
For shame wilt thou afrayed be, of any thing or thou it see, (adrad)
Sir he said with heuy chere, I will him neuer see nor heare,
Well said Beuis wilt thou so, I will him slay or I go,
Alcapart further would he nought, but Beuis rode forth and sought,
And when the Dragon that foule is, had a sight of sir Beuis,
He cast vp a loud cry, as it had thundred in the sky.
He turned his belly toward the sun, it was bigger then any tunne,
His scales wes brighter then the glasse, & harder they wer thē any brasse,
betweene his shoulder and his tayle, was forty foote without fayle,
He weltred out of his den, and Beuis pricked his stede then,
And to him a speare he thrust, that all to shiuers it brust,
The Dragon gan Beuis assayle, & smot sir Beuis with his tayle,
Then downe went horse and man, two ribbes of Beuis brused than,
Up start Beuis with good will, and after ranne the Dragon till,
And good Morglay out brayd, and on the Dragon fast he layd,
but for no stroke that he did strike, would not Morglay on him bite,
The Dragon was greeued sore, and smote at Beuis more and more
And gaue him many a great wound, and felled him oft to the ground,
What for wery and what for faint, sir Beuis was nere attaint,
The Dragon sewed on Beuis so hard, ỹ as he would haue fled backward,

There

There was a well as I wéene, and he stumbed right therein,
Then was Beuis afrayed and woe, lest the Dragon should him slo,
Or that he might away passe, when he in that well was,
Then was the well of such vertue, through the might of Christ Jesu.
For sometime dwelled in that lond, a Virgin full of Christs sond,
That had bene bathed in that well, that euer after as men tell,
Might no venimous worme come therein, by the vertue of that Virgin,
Nigh it seauen fote and more, then Beuis was glad therefore,
When he sawe the Dragon fell, had no power to come to the well,
Then was he glad without fayle, and rested a while for his auayle,
And dranke of that water his fill, and then he lept out with good will,
And with Morglay his brand, assayled the Dragon I vnderstand,
On the Dragon he smote so fast, where that he hit the scales brast,
The Dragon than faynted sore, and cast a galon and more,
Out of his mouth of venime strong, and one sir Beuis he it slong,
Which was so venimous ywis, that when it was on sir Beuis.
His armour burst in that stound, and he fell dead to the ground,
There was no life on him séene, he lay as a dead man on the gréene,
The Dragon smot him without faile, that he tourned top and tayle,
but thereoff he toke no kéepe, he lay as a dead man on sléepe,
He smote Beuis as I you tell, the dint smote him into the well,
That was of great vertue that time, for it would suffer no venime,
Through vertue of the Virgin, that once was bathed therin,
When Beuis was at the ground, the water made him whole & sound,
And quenched all the venim away, this well saued Beuis that day,
When he félt him whole and light, and knew that well of great might
Then was he a ioyfull man, he was as fresh as when he began,
He knéeled downe in that place, to Jesu Christ he called for grace,
That he would send him might, to slay the Dragon in fight,
Beuis blessed him and forth yode, and lept out with hart full good,
And Beuis to the Dragon gone is, and the Dragon also to Beuis,
Long and hard was the fight, betwext the Dragon and the knight,
But euer whē Beuis was hurt sore, he went to ỹ wel & washed him thore,
He was as whole as any man, & euer as fresh as when he began,
The Dragon saw ỹ might not auayle, beside the well to hold battaile,
He thought he would with some wile, out of that place Beuis beguile,
He would haue flowen thē away, & Beuis lept after with good Morglay,
And hit him vnder the wing, as he was in his flying,

There he was tender without scale, and Beuis thought to be his bale,
He smote after as I you say, with his good sword Morglay,
Up to the hilts Morglay yode, through hart, liuer, bone and bloud,
To the ground fell the Dragon, great ioy sir Beuis began,
Under the scales all on hight, he smote his head forth right,
And put it vpon a speare, and vneth he might it beare,
He went to Colaine that tide, with great ioy and much pride,
When they of the citie saw Beuis, come with the dragons head ywis,
All the bells gan they ring, priestes and clearkes then did sing,
And brought Beuis to the towne, with procession and renowne,
Then was Beuis name in honour, euery man had him in fauour,
In euery land is spred, sir Beuis price and laud,
Glad was the Bishop tho, that sir Beuis had borne him so,

¶ Beuis did goe vpon a day, to the bishop where he lay,
And sayd what is your rede sir, I would go venge my father,
Of that wicked felon, that slew him by treason,
If I might by any ginne, my herytage agayne to winne,
And sir ye be my fathers brother, and sir Sabere is the other,
Of you two I must haue counsaile, for surely I will him assaile,
Sir saide the Bishop anone right, sir Sabere is a doughty knight,
For euery yere a day certayne, he fighteth thy stepfather agayne,
With a great baronage, for to winne thine heritage,
I wil thee finde at my costage, an hundred at my wage,
And go to Sabere thy eame right, he is in the yle of wight,
Sir he sayd God haue mercy, but let these men some be ready,
Sir Beuis rode forth to Josian, and toke his leaue of his lemman,
And saide my Lady I must goe, for to wreake me of my foe,
For to winne vnto my hand, all my heritage and my land,
And here still shall you be, and Ascapart shall be with thee,
Ye shall haue or I wend, mony ynough for to spend,
Josian saw it would not be so, she kissed him and forth go,
Forth went Beuis with his rout, of hardy men, bolde and stout,
That the bishop him gaue, so long on the sea they draue,
Till they came to the towne, but two mile from southhampton,
Then said Beuis to them tho, is here any man that will goe,
Vnto sir Murdure of Almayne, and saye there is come an Almaine,
With doughty knights without disfaunce, ỳ best of ỳ realme of Fraunce,

And

And say we be come into this land, for we be done to vnderstand,
There should be great war & fight, betweene him and a nother knight,
And he will with him holde, we will defend him be he so bould,
And if he will not do so, we will to the other go,
A knight went forth on that message, that gentle was of lynage,
When he came to the Castell gate, the porter let him in thereat,
And to sir Murdure was he lad, and told him as Beuis bad,
Murdure then was full faine, he rose vp and went them agayne,
And brought sir Beuis into the hall, and fayre saluted them all,
Beuis was sir Murdures fere, forsoth that night at supper,
His owne mother without leasing, made sir Beuis great feasting,
Murdure asked what he hight, Geraurd he said you plight,
Geraurd he sayd ywis, this Countes had or this,
An Earle her had or I hir wed, he gate a child by her in bed,
When the Earle to death was brought, the boy anone wared nought,
His father was of noble bloud, and his mother in all things good,
The boy when he came to age, solde to me his heritage,
He spent his siluer with much blame, and went out of ỹ land for shame,
Now commeth his vncle an hardy knight, ỹ dwelleth in the yle of Wight
And challengeth his heritage, with a full bould baronage,
And often times with his great rout, destroyeth our land round about,
This is the cause sir Gerard, that either warre on other so hard,
When sir Murdure had all said, Beuis sat still and was euell apayed,
And thought Lord whether shall I flo, this false traytour or I goe.
Nay sayd Beuis and why, it will turne me to villany,
For men might deeme by reason, that I him slew by treason,
It would me tourne to cowardise, if I him slay in this wise,
Therefore I will not assaile, I will him slaye in playne battaile,
When Beuis a while had sitten still, sir he sayd will you heare my skill
I haue hither company brought, but in armour be the nought,
They might not with them armour lede, but it noyed them as they yede,
And few horses ywis haue we, we left for caryage on the sea,
Lend me horse and armour then, for to harneis all my men,
And if we haue shipping so, and that we may to the yle goe,
This night will I liue or dye, on them that is mine enimie,
And so within a lyttle whyle, you shall heare a quaynt guyle.
Sir Murdure did as he bad, and the men with armour clad,
And ordeyned them shipping good, and brought them vnto the flood,

And forth they went all by light, till they came to the yle of Wight,
Sabere out of his Castel lay, and hard much noyse and great aray,
And saw a ship to land was right, wᵭ an hundred heads wᵭ helms bright,
And had wonder what they were, but Beuis displayed his banner there.
For to make glad sir Sabere, of his father sir Guyes armere,
For many a time there before, were those armes in battaile borne,
Sabere knew the cognisaunce, and then he made good semblaunce,
And said certis I vnderstand, that yonder is Beuis commen to land,
Sabere went thether all in hast, where the ship was made fast,
And welcomed Beuis with ioy & blisse, and either of them other kisse,
And thanked God of his grace, that Beuis was come to that place,
Forth went Beuis with Sabere, with their men all in feare,
Beuis tould his came there, how he deceiued his stepfather,
Beuis asked forthwith than, if there were euer a man,
The which dare goe as hote, vnto Southhampton in a bote,
And tell Murdure this night, that he was not a french knight.
Neither that he hight Gerrard, that made with him that forward,
But say he was Beuis of renowne, right heyre to Southhampton,
And say the Countesse is my dame, the diuell giue them both shame,
And say he will aduenged be, for slaying of his father sir Guy.
And who so will do for me this, shalbe well rewarded iwis,
vp start a knight with bold visage, which vndertoke that message,
And armed him all so hote, and went sone into a bote,
When he came to the other side, vnto the Castle did he ride.
And found sir Murdure at his supper, with good semblaunt & great chére,
The knight on his knées him set, and sir Murdure fayre he grete,
And said sir Murdure I bring, this for a certeine tiding,
That the knight is not Gerrard, that made with thee this forward,
He hight Beuis of Southhampton, he is the Ladyes owne sonne,
I heard him so to Sabere speake, his fathers death he will wreake,
And winne he will his heritage, on thē ẏ haue done him outrage,
When sir Murdure heard that word, he cast his knife ouer bord,
To haue smitten the messenger, but he fayled as you may heare,
And smote his sonne on the brest, ẏ he neuer spake wᵭ clearke nor priest,
Then rose there a noyse and cry, the messenger then not for folly,
Thought not good to dwell there long, but out he lept them among.
And smote his horse with the spures, and sprang out at the dores,
Faire and well he gan him dight, till he came to the yle of Wight,

And

And tould sir Beuis and sir Sabere, how sir Murdure sat at supper,
His owne sonne for yre he slough, Beuis had good game and lough,
And gaue the messenger in hand, sirty Floryes for his tydand.

¶ How a knight that hight Miles came & woed Iosian, and wedded her against her will.

LEt we of them be still than, and speake we now of Iosian,
That in Colayne dwelled still, where she had not all her will,
There dwelled a knight ỹ hight Mile, in the land of Colayne ỹ while,
To Iosian his loue he cast, and woed her wondrous fast,
But al his speach tourned to nought, for nothing cold chaũge hir thought
The earle was wroth in his manner, for Iosian made him in great dan-ger)
And in his anger he downe him set, & to Iosian spake words great,
I shall do with thee my will, whether it make the well or ill,
Sir sayd Iosian thy best let be, I dread thee nought so may I thee,

For if thou goe to my hart, I affye me in Alcapart.
Certis though Earle Myle, I ſhall him ſome manner beguile.
When he ſaw he migh not ſpæde, vp he roſe and forth yede.
He made a letter be written right, on this manner it was dight.
From Beuis as the letter would, that Alcapart come ſhould.
Unto a Caſtle in an yle, being from Colayne but a myle.
When Alcapart heard that ſond, he toke a bat in his hand.
And went forth with the meſſenger, in great haſt till he came there.
When he was well within, the meſſenger knew a quaint gin.
Within he left Alcapart, and locked the gates to him hard.
He rowed himſelfe to land againe, and tould ſir Myles of that traine.
Then had the Earle no dread, but againe to Joſian yede.
And ſaid Lady make no mone, for Alcapart is from the gone.
In a Caſtle within the ſea, faſt locked ſure is he.
Then was ſhe full ill apaied, and to a meſſenger ſhe ſaide.
Go thou to ſhip this ylke night, and paſſe forth to the yle of Wight.
And bid ſir Beuis for any thing, come to me without letting.
And he will haue me on liue, therefore do thou go blyue.
I ſhall thee thy reward pay, do thy errand without delay,
The meſſenger went forth away, there was no more then to ſay,
And ſir Myle after than, came vnto fayre Joſian.
And firſt would haue lyne her by, good ſir ſhe ſaid graunt me mercy.
For I haue ſworne by God truly, that no man ſhall lye me by.
Although therefore I loſe my life, vntil he wedde me as his wife,
And thou wilt me eſpouſe and wed, thou ſhalt haue me to thy bedde.
Gladly my Lady then ſaid he, to morrow ſhall we wedded be.
He killed her anone as his rights, and ſent after barons and knights.
That ſhould be of his priuitie, at his wedding for to be.
For he would be wedded priuely, the next morning very early,
On the morrow he forgot nought, but they to the church were brought.
They earely them began to wedde, both to bord and eke to bedde,
When the wedding was all done, by that it was hye none.
Earles and barons were ſone ſet, and rich meate were forth ſet.
There lacked none certainely, of rich meate and minſtrelſie.
When it drew toward the night, a rich ſupper there was dight.
And afterward verament, a knight and ſhe to chamber went.
Upon her bed where ſhe ſat, the Earle came to hir with that.
With barons a great company, with pye meate and with ſpicery.

When

When they had dronken the wine, sir said Josian and loue mine,
Let no persone here be, this night to heare our priuitie,
Neither knight maiden nor swayne, my selfe shalbe your chamberlayne.
He said lemman it shal be so, man and maide he made out go.
He shut the dore well and fast, and set him downe at the last.
To haue a curtaine it was law, before the bed he did it draw,
Then on a girdell without leasing, she made a knot riding.
About his necke she drewit thore, and strangled him without more.
Then on a beame she hanged him hy, and let him hang for his folly.
The night passed in that wise, the barons gan for to arise.
Some on hunting & some to the church, & workmen rose to worke.
The halfe day past without fayle, the barons had of him meruayle.
Some said let him be still, of Josian he hath his will.
The midday when it drew to none a baron spake then sone.
I meruaile how may this bee, I will goe to the chamber and see.
He smote the dore then so fast, that all to peeces he it brast.
Arise he said thou Earle Vile, for thou hast slept a great while.
Thy head aketh I wote well, thou hast nede of a candell.
Nay said she I vndertake, his head shall neuer more ake.
I haue charmed him for that sore, that his head shall neuer ake more.
Now I haue vnknit the wedding, younder mayst thou see him hang.
He shal neuer woman spill, do with me what so euer ye will.
All they made great sorrow, the other day on the morrow.
She was dight verament, in a fire to be brent.
Without the towne was set a stake, a great fire did they make.
In a Castle lay Ascapart, and ouer the wal loked thetherward.
And had great wonder truly, what that fire might signifie.
He thought in his hart then, that Josian some wo was in.
Of the Castle where he was lockt, a touret he had all to broke.
He was so wo and wode, that he lept into the flode.
And fast by him also hote, came a Fysher with his bote.
And Ascapart toke the bote in hand, and rowed it vnto the land.
Towards the folke he gan loke, Beuis, came after and him ouertake.
And saide theefe where hast thou be, where is my queene I left with thee,
Sir Beuis Lord mercy he sayd, the Earle Vile hath me betrayd.
Toward the fire they hyed them bliue, the preist than Josian shriue.
Christs blessing haue he among, for he taryed her so long.
When the fire was all ready, in her smock she stood thereby.

Right as they ſhould hir bren, on Arundell Beuis gan ren,
And in his hand good Morglay, and Aſcapart went an other way.
And all they about found, Beuis and he ſlew to the ground,
There was neither knight ne ſwaine, that paſſed away vnſlayne,
And what made the falſe Earle Mile, for his treaſon and his gile,
Beuis toke with him than, both Aſcapart and Joſian,
And went forth anone right, till they came to the yle of wight,
Sir Sabere, welcomed with good hart, both Beuis, Joſian, and Aſcapart.

¶ How ſir Beuis and ſir Sabere his eame ſent their meſſengers far and wide, for men of armes to ſuccour them in that tide, againſt ſir Murdure, that held Beuis heritage by treaſon, that was imagined by the wicked woman his mother, and how in the fielde Aſcapart bare Sir Murdure and his horſe, maugre of all his hoſt into the caſtle, and how he was ſodden to death in a Caudron.

SAbere and Beuis sent their sond, wide about in euery land,
After right great chiualry, of stalworth knights and hardy,
That they might finde them, yea, both stout and hardy men,
Spared they neither siluer nor gold, for the best men haue they would.
Beuis was curteise and free, to euery man in his degree,
There came Earles and barons iwis, for to succour sir Beuis,
There came knights squiers & pages, each one had of him good wages,
And rich giftes more and lesse, each man after his doughtinesse,
Therefore each man to him sought, he toke & left what he best thought,
Euer he chase him of the best, that he could finde either east or west,
Sir Murdure much sorow made he, whē he saw Beuis had such a meny
The Countesse said dread ye nought, of good counsayle I am thought,
Ye shall send in certaine, after the power of Almaine,
Also you shall send your sond, after my father into Scotland,
He will come to you readely, with a full great company,
And we may haue many mo, out of England and wales also,
Wherfore should ye dread then, while ye may haue so many men,
If Beuis se you haue this rout, he will flye away for doubt,
Sir Murdure did by her counsaile, the messenger went without faile,
That afterward without leasing, to Hampton came Prince and King,
There came with the king of Scotland, the number of seuen thousand,
There came out of Almaine, with sir Morys of Uiane,
Sixty thousand with helmes bright, and well armed for to fight,
And sir Murdure had also, three thousand men and more,
Now lordings said sir Murdure, that hither come me to succour,
Often ye haue heard speake pardy, of the strife betwæne Sabere & me,
Now to helpe him for to fight, beuis of Hampton a noble knight,
Well I thought he had bæne dead, what is therefore best I read,
He threateneth me to be slayne, and that he will win his land agayne,
A Gyant with him he hath brought, an earthly man semeth he nought,
Neither of flesh nor yet of fell, for he is lyke the Diuell of hell,
Men call him Ascapart throughout, of him forsoth I haue great doubt,
But Lordings he said arme you well, both of yron and eke of steele,
Though Ascapart be stif and sterke, many hands make light worke,
When his hoast was armed and dight, they shiped to the yle of wight,
And all the yle was then besprad, with the power sir Murdure ledde,
Sir Sabere loked out at a tower, and saw the hoast of sir Murdure,
And all smartly downe gan he go, for to tell sir Beuis so, 126

And ſaide Beuis now counſaile, I trow it would vs auayle.
In this Caſtle to hould vs ſtill, and to defend vs from ill.
For ſuch an hoaſt as hath Murdure, ſaw I neuer in any ſtour.
Do away Sabere ſayd Beuis tho, for if they had as many mo.
Againſt vs they haue no might, they haue the wrong and we the right.
Arme you all Beuis gan cry, that we were armed haſtely.
And ye ſhall haue ſir Sabere, three thouſand vnder your banner.
And I as many ſhall lead, of doughty men good at neede.
For I will haue the forward, and then he ſaid to Aſcapart.
Thou ſhalt dwell not for thy, with three thouſand men hardy.
When we haue medled a ſtound, and each brought other to ground.
And that the ſtoure is moſt ſtrong, hye the thether and dwell not long.
For three thouſand of freſh men, good deedes ſhall they do then.
Beuis then his horne did blow, for all men ſhould him know.
By that blowing ſir Murdure, knew they gathered the ſtoure.
He ſaid lordings without fayle, now commeth our foe to battaile.
Be ye hardy and ſtout alſo, for we be as many mo.
Two battailes did they make, the king of Scotland one gan take.
Sir Murdure the other lad, either of them ten thouſand had.
The firſt that of the caſtel came out, was ſir Beuis with his rout.
And Sabere with his company, came after full boldly.
Either hoaſt gan other defy, and euery man to other ready.
Sir Morys of Miane, rode faſt ſir Sabere againe.
And Sabere met him ywis, and ſuch a ſtroke he gaue Morys.
That quite away gan he cleaue, from the ſhoulder arme and ſleeue.
Before the preace went ſir Beuis, on euery ſide he ſlew iwis.
There might none him withſtand, that ſaw the king of Scotland.
He preſſed in with his rout, and beſet Beuis round about.
Beuis then began to play, and made roume with Morglay.
He would not ſtint then ſo, till he went the king to.
And ſuch a ſtroke he him let, that horſe and man to ground went.
But ſuch ſuccour came to him tho, at that time Beuis might not him ſlo.
But or he was horſed againe, an hundred men had Beuis ſlayne.
Forth proceedeth Beuis in the throng, on euery ſide downe he ſlong.
He neuer ſtinted in that ſtoure, till he came to ſir Murdure.
Traitour he ſaid with great enuy, turne the now I thee defy.
When Murdure ſaw he was beſted, he tourned his backe & wold haue fled
And Beuis ſmot after wō good Morglay, but fayled him there well away.

For

For by his back the stroke fell downe, & hit it vpon his saddel cropowne
And smote it asunder to the ground, horse and sadle both in that stound.
But there came hastely succour, and horsed againe sir Murdure.
And boldly then did he abide, the people dyed on euery side.
Beuis rode forth on Arundell, on euery side he did them fell.
Some lay bleeding as a swine, and some began then to pine.
And some their visage did pare, that men might see their teeth bare.
There went none vnmarkt away, that he might hit with Morglay.
For sore agrieued was he, where he had one they had three.
But Beuis and Sabere bare them so, against one they slew two.
When the throng was heard, than came forth Ascapart.
All on foote I you swere, for there might no horse him beare.
He toke his staffe in his hand, and slew downe all that he fand.
When Ascapart came with his rout, then had sir Murdure great doubt.
For he brought with him then, three thousand of fresh men.
And felled downe on euery side, and slew all that would abide.
Great pitie men might haue seene, of the murther that there hath beene.
Fearefull they were of Ascapart, for he smote so sore and hard.
That three thousand they might see, flye and drowne them in the sea.
Beuis called Ascapart him till, and said fellow heare my skill.
Loke that thou take good heede, of him that rideth on the white steede.
And beare him aliue vnto the tower, for that same is sir Murdure.
Yes said Ascapart tho, we shall shriue him or we go.
Ascapart with his staffe, many their deaths wound he gaffe.
With great strength & much payn, he came to sir Murdure of almaine.
And all on horse as he sat there, vnder his arme he gan him beare.
Than began Murdures men to hie, to rescue him he should not dye.
The king of Scotland with his rout, beset Ascapart round about.
And when sir Beuis and sir Sabere, came there with their power.
And slew all that would stand, to the number of three thousand.
And maugre if they had swore, Murdure was to the castle borne.
The king of Scotland was then beset, whē he saw Murdure to ỹ castle fet)
And all his meny downe smite, he turned to his backe as lite.
Then they would no longer abide, but slew them downe on euery side.
Sir Beuis and sir Sabere, chased them with their power.
And fast followed he, and many fled into the sea.
And they that stode him againe, they were all maimed and slaine.
Some their shanks by the knee, and some quartered in three.



Some

Some their nose and some their lip, the king of Scotland had a ship,
And fled away by the west, to the place that liked them best,
Beuis and Sabere turned againe, into the Castle glad and faine,
Sir Beuis without any let, made a caudron on the fire be set,
Full of pich and brimstone, a worse death was neuer none,
When the caudron boyled hard, Murdure was cast into the midward,
That death dyed he sekerly, for the death of good sir Guy,
Thereof heard the Countesse, that sir Murdure dead was,
she stood aboue in a toure, so wo she was for sir Murdure,
she threw hir selfe downe & broke hir neck, I beshrew ỹ therfore doth reck
When sir Beuis tidings heard, of his mother how she farde,
As sory was he for her, as he was for his stepfather,
Sone after sir Beuis, Come to Southhampton is,
To take possession of his landes, that had bene long out of his hands,
The burgesses with much pride, against sir Beuis gan they ride,
And brought sir Beuis fayre and well, to Hampton to his owne Castell
Of Hampton all the baronage, came and did Beuis homage,
Then was Beuis glad and faine, that he had his enemies slayne,
Sent after the bishop of Colaine, than Beuis the soth to sayne,
That he would for any thing, to be at his wedding,
When he was there come, two knightes had Josian anone,
To church than they hir led, the bishop himselfe on the booke red,
And vnto Beuis was wedded blithe, to the ending of their life,
Now hath Beuis recouered his state, two children by her he gat,
The first night together in feare, as you shall afterward heare,
Sabere counsailed him there, to go to London to king Edgare,
To make him homage as reason would, for his lands to chaleng & hold,
Sir Beuis did after counsayling, and went forth before the king,
And profered that king to do him homage, as it fell to his heritage,
King Edgare he asked what he hight, and what he claimed for his right,
Sir he said my name is Beuis, the Earledome of southhampton it is,
After my father sir Guy, that was slyne for his Lady,
With sir Murdure of Almaine, and thanked be God he is slaine,
Beuis said the king I hold me paid, I graunt that thou hast said,
His marshall toke the king in hand, and said deliuer me thy wand,
For sir Guy his father was my marshal, and sir Beuis his sonne he shal
The yard to Beuis the king taketh, and his marshall him maketh,
¶ Beuis is now of great might, beloued both of king and knight,

Each man both Earle and Baron, loued and dread Beuis of Hampton.
For largely would he spend, and giftes both giue and send.
To euery man after his estate, no man had cause him to hate.
He was so curteous and so kinde, that euery man was his friend.
Saue sir Bryan of Cornwayle, he hated Beuis without fayle.
For Beuis had these offices, that sometime were his.
In the Somer at Whitsontide, when knightes doe on horsebacke ride.
A course they made vppon a day, stedes and palfrayes to assay.
Which horse that best may runne, three mile the course was then.
He that best ride could, should haue fortie pound of gold.
Sir Beuis was appayed well, for much he trusted in Arundell.
On the morow when it was light, thither came both Baron and knight.
With faire stedes and much pride, that in that course would ride.
Two knightes were stolne before, a large halfe mile and more.
That none of his fellowes wote, Beuis with the spurres smote.
On Arundell so sayth the booke, and amid the way them ouertooke.
He had ridden the course in a while, or they thought he had rid a mile.
Now hath Beuis the price won, through Arundell that well did runne.
Wherefore with that and other cattell, he made the castle of Arundell.
The horse was praised in that case, for both swift and lucky he was.
The kinges sonne and his heire, thought the horse good and fayre.
And to Beuis then he hyed, and prayed him to haue his stede.
No sayd Beuis for no gold, but aske me else what you would.
At your will you shall it haue, but Arundell do you not craue.
For any prayer you may pray, will I giue my stede away.
The kinges sonne when he it saw, that his minde he could not draw.
Without any more fable, he went vnto sir Beuis stable.
For he would the horse vntye, but when he came somewhat nye.
That Arundell also bote, with his hinder fot he smote,
That he droue out his brayne, so he lay there dead slayne.
There was dole and much weeping, when tydinges came to the king.
Fortwith the king berament, made to be set his Parliament.
And began for to ordayne, that sir Beuis should be slayne.
And be drawne with wilde beastes, his Barons would not his heastes.
They sayd that it were no skill, but Arundell should be at his will.
For he slew thy sonne so, but nought to Beuis may we doe.
Nay sayd Beuis for no cattell, would I let slay Arundell.
For he is good euery where, yet had I rather the land forswere.

Then ſir Brian of Cornewall ſaid, ſir this is my counſell.
That ye doe one of the two, I aſſent ſaid Beuis tho.
Before you all I giue here, mine heritage to Sabere.
Sir Beuis deliuered vp the wand, and there he forſ woze England.
A fortnight had he reſpite, for to wend all in delight.
And he after might be found, he ſhould be taken and faſt bound.
On this maner they were at one, and to Hampton he rode anone.
And together told he thoze, of the eaſe both leſſe and moze,
It is no longer but to morne, for we may not here ſoiourne.
Beuis and Joſian made all ready, and tok their leaue for to ferry.
Saberes ſonne that hight Terry, Beuis toke with him for company.
Aſcapart that falſe theefe, and for him he had much griefe.
He thought here I do dwell, and get nothing but great trauell.
But if I might by Termagaunt, bring Joſian to Hamburgant.
I ſhould be welcome the king till, and haue a inough at my will.
This Aſcapart falſe was he, for Beuis was faine in pouertie.
When a man is in pouertie fall, few friendes meeteth he with all.

¶How Beuis and faire Joſian tooke their way into a ſtraunge land, and how ſhe trauailed in a Forell, and was deliuered of two children. And how Aſcapart that falſe Fellon after hir deliueraunce, came and bare her away, and after that how Beuis came to a great Iuſting and Tumament and won the price.

NOw Beuis and Iosian forth gan ride, till they came to a forest side.
And Iosian that was so milde, in that wood trauailed with childe.
Beuis & Terry downe gan light, & with their swords a lodge they dight.
And brought Iosian therein, for they could no better ginne.
Sir Beuis gan her seruice bed, for to helpe her at her neede.
She thanked him and said nay, for Gods loue go heuce away.
Go and play you with Terry, and let me worke & our Lady.
shall neuer womans pitie, to man be shewed for me.
Beuis and Terry went forth there, for they would not her paines heare.
And Ascapart toke another way, on reason thought these are.
After that Beuis was gone her fro, she was deliuered of children two.
When Ascapart heard that case, that Iosian deliuered was.
To the lodge he went there, and Iosian away did beare.
There might no prayers her borow, I wonder her hart brast not for sorow
For he swore by Termagant, he would her lead to Mambrant.
When Beuis had beene long tarried, againe to the Lodge he him hied.
In the lodge found he no mo, but young small children two.
Than wist he not what to say, when he saw Iosian was away.
Alas then said Beuis, Ascapart hath done treason ywis.
Sir Beuis fell downe in a traunce, and sir Terry did him vphaunce.
When Beuis saw no better would be, his rich mantle then toke he.
and lapped the two children therein, for they were some deale of his kin.
No longer then would he abide, he toke his children & forth gan ride,
A foster in the wood he met, sir Beuis him asked and faire him greet,
Fellow said Beuis than, sawest thou ought of such a man.
Lead a woman by any way, sir said the foster nay.
What manner of man art thou bacheler, sir he saide I am a foster.
Wilt thou said Beuis so Christ thee shield, do christē heere an heithē child.
But right now was it borne, full early it hath the mother lorne.
And keepe it but this seauen yeere, for ten marke haue it heere.
Gladly saide the foster tho, he toke the child and the siluer also.
And said what shall I call him sir knight, Guy he said as my father hight
And when it is seuen yeere, of each land do thou enquire.
After Beuis of Hampton, my name is so by my crowne.
And bring the child to me, and well rewarded shalt thou be.
Gladly sir he said ywis, he went his waies and Beuis his.
Forth they rod so saith the booke, and an other man they ouertooke.
And asked what man was he, he said a fisher of the sea.

And Beuis with good ſemblaunt made with him the ſame couenaunt.
That he ſhould on this manner, his other ſonne to kepe this vii. yeare.
The ſiher graunted as Beuis ſayd, he toke the childe and held him payde.
After himſelfe in that while, he chriſtened the childe, and highte him Pyle.
Forth rode Beuis by dale and downe, till they came to Caſtle towne.
He toke his Inne as a curteous knight, and faſt to ſupper he him dight.
At a windowe Beuis loked out, he ſaw in the ſtrætes all about.
Stædes trapped faire and bright, Dukes and Earles, and many a knight
Out of the windowes on euery ſyde, armes were hanged fayre & wyde.
Haroldes gan the armes ſone diſcrye, and therof Beuis merualled greatly.
And aſked his hoaſt thereof tyding, ſir he ſaid heard ye nothing,
Of the great iuſting that ſhall be, to morow in this Citie?
The Dukes daughter and his heire, ſhe is maiden good and fayre.
Her father is now nære dead, therefore it is giuen her to rede.
A great Juſting for to trye, that he that hath the maiſtery,
Shall this mayd haue to wed, and her land to guyd and led.
Now ſayd Beuis to Terry, ſhall we iuſt for that Lady?
Yes ſaid Terry God forbid elſe, if it were ſoth as he vs telles.
Beuis gaue the man for his tyding, of grotes twentie ſhilling.
On ỳ morow whē it was day light, then roſe both baron, ſquire, & knight.
Faire tokens they gan on them throw, wherby ỳ Lady ſhould thē know.
Sir Beuis and ſir Terry, armed themſelues full haſtily.
Sir Beuis bare colours of paiment, a red Lyon of gold rampant.
And forth rode Terry and hée, to the iuſting where it ſhould bée.
The faire Lady Elinoure, ouer the caſtle lay that houre.
And the Juſting ſhée beheld, what knight did beſt in the field.
Then the knightes began to ride, each to other on euery ſide.
And Beuis rode firſt againe, the Emperours ſonne of Almayne.
To him Beuis bare ſo faſt, that horſe and man to ground he caſt.
The Erle of Florence ſtoutly than, againſt Beuis in haſt ranne.
And Beuis met him in the field, and hit him amiddes the ſhield.
That two yardes brode and more, he caſt him from his horſe thore.
Then came forth Duke Antony, who was Duke of Burgony.
He was ſtrong and of great price, and thus he ſaid to ſir Beuis.
Turne thée here and make defence, I will auenge the Earle Florence.
Then Beuis would no longer abide, but ſmote Arundell vnder the ſide.
Each to other then droue, that their ſhaftes all to roue.
But ſir Beuis ſo hard him thruſt, that his ſhoulder bone all to bruſt.

Therefore

Therefore he was agrieued sore, for that day he might fult no more.
And then rode forth sir Terry, to the kinges brother of Hungary.
And gaue him such a rebowne, that horse and man fell downe.
Then came the Earle Hamant, and to Terry made assent.
Terry hit him amiddes the shield, and bare him quite into the field.
There was no knight redily, that might sir Beuis and Terry.
Full narrowly the other sought, but sir Beuis spared them nought.
The steward of the same land, sir Beuis cast on the sand.
And that reioyst faire Elinore, for the boast he made before.
And many Beuis bare throughout, so that they stod in great doubt.
They stinted not till it was night, that they wanted the day light.
Then they ceased their playing, on the morow they heard tiding.
That all the praise and renowne, was giuen to Beuis of Hampton.
Dame Elinor would not blinne, till Beuis came to hir Inne.
She said sir by my counsaile, you shall me wedde without faile.
Each to other for terme of life. Nay sayd Beuis I haue a wife.
He told how she was taken away, thorow treason I you say,
And for her he was full woe: now she said sith it is so.
You shall all this seauen yeare, be my Lord in cleane manner.
And if you finde her not by than, I will thée haue before any man.
And the next to thée truely, is the good knight sir Terry.
And if this may stand me in stéede, I graunt said Beuis to this déede.
And thus was he her gouernour, and led the land in great honour.
As Sabere slept all night in bed, he thought of Beuis that was beléed.
Through Ascapart his swaine, and how he had sir Beuis slaine.
When he waked his hart was cold, his dreame to his wife he tolde.
Sir she said as I wéene, Beuis is brought into some téene.
For as I trow by my life, he hath lost childe and wife.
Through Ascapart that false théefe, Beuis is in some griefe.
I shall them séeke said Sabere, twelue knightes he did attire,
In Palmers wéede by saint John, well armed euery one.
All armed sure and well, both of Iron and stéele.
Forth they went more and lesse, till they came to heathenesse.
When Josian was nigh Mambrant, Iesu Christ be hir warrant.
She met Sabere in the visage, and said Palmer in her language,
I pray you of succour and read, vnlesse you helpe I am but dead.
Certes Josian said Sabere, it liketh me that you be here.
For of you Madame verament, I shall make Beuis a present.

He was a greeued with Aſcapart, and aſſailed him full hard.
They him beſet on euery ſide, but none would his dints abide.
From his ſtrokes they did ſhonne, and ſtart againe as knights anone.
He had great ſtrokes and ſore, as one was heere and the other there.
And as he ſmote after a knight, Sabere ran to him full right.
And with a ſword without doubt, he bare Aſcapart throughout.
And he fell dead to the ground, glad was Joſian in that ſtound.
Sir Sabere toke Joſian than, that was as white as any Swan.
Her body that was faire and gent, he noynted with an oyntment.
And made her yelow and greene, that before was faire and cheene.
That no man ſhould her know, therefore he diſcouered her ſo.
And ſithen Beuis they ſought, but tidings of him found they nought.
That wilbe found, found ſhalbe, on a day they went through the Citie.
And led Joſian to her Inne, and he went forth ſome meate to win.
Saber went to the Caſtle gate, and met his ſonne Terry there at.
He prayed him in ỹ honer of the rode, that he would giue him ſome good.
Terry beheld him as blithe, and ſaid Palmer ſo may I thriue.
There ſhall no meat be for thee to deere, for thou art like my father ſabere
Sabere ſaid he, by Gods grace, ſo my mother ſaid I was.
When Terry ſaw that it was hee, he ranne to him with heart free.
And kiſſed him and aſked father, what made him to come thether.
Sabere ſaid ſonne thou ſhalt ſee, what thing I haue brought with mee.
Forth they went together in feare, till they came to the Inne of Sabere.
Then Sabere and Terry with good intent, waſhed away the oyntment.
Faire and well they her dight, and brought her to the Caſtle right.
And toke her than to Beuis in hond, there came neuer to the ſuch a ſond.
Ther came the Fiſher and the Foſter, with two children cleere.
For they held Beuis couenant right, he made each of them a knight,
And than wedded for ſir Terry, of that land the faire Ladie.
There was a rich feaſt ywiſſe, on euery ſide ioy and bliſſe.

THis beginneth a new tiding, of king Iour and Ermine king.
Betweene them gan battaile make, and all was for Joſians ſake.
A Palmer told Beuis thereof tiding, and ſir Beuis all hying.
Sent after great chiualrie, of doughtie knights and hardie.
That he had not knowne before, and all they to him ſwore.
When Beuis gathered his company, he toke his leaue of ſir Terry.
And Terry prayered with him for to goe, but Beuis ſaid it ſhould not ſo.

Sabere

Sabere thy father shal wend with me, If I haue neede I shal send to thée.
Guy and Miles to horse gan dight, with stalworth swordes for to fight.
And Beuis with all his company, went forth to Armony.
Of his comming the king was blith, and cryed mercy an hundreth sith.
And said if thou wilt forgiue mée, I wilbe Christened for loue of thée.
On that couenant he gaue him a kisse, that they be accorded ywis.
Without any other dome, Beuis then sent for the bishop of Rome.
That he should send his clarkes good, Sabere them bishopped or they yod
That they might with clére clargie, Christen the land of Armony.
For the kings graunt they had, the bishop it heard and he was glad.
And hath sent after his law, clearkes that were wise in the law.
They christened Ermine with their hand, & sithen all the people of ý land
In many a place Beuis gan worch, Abbies and many a good Church.
So was the land of Armony, through Beuis christened truely,
King Iour heard of that land, that Beuis was come to land.
A great hoast made he tho, fortie thousands Saracins and mo.
And to Armony went he then, and there began to robbe and brenne.
When Beuis heard that he was come, a great host they did them anone.
And rode king Iour againe, with all his power might and maine.
It was a faire fight to them ý beheld, when both parties met in the field.
The field shone wondrous bright, with basenets that were light.
But sone after they were other, when both the hosts were together.
On both parts the Romains saies, they shot arrowes with bow turkais.
Quarrels with alblasters & cast stones, ther was a dolful fight for ý nones
For arrowes were ther great plentie, there might not one hoast an other sée
With swords bright that well can byte, each man gan other smite.
But when they handled both the same, there was earnest and no game.
And Beuis with Morglay stirred so, that all he hit he smote in two.
The Saracins gan Beuis to desie, and came thick about him redely.
Therewith he was well apayed & lough, on euery side he downe thē slough
So many he slew in that fight, to his stirrop they lay vpright.
He rode forth when he them left, and there he slew as many eft.
Sabere his came though he were old, he shewed ý he was strong & bold.
He slew before him ten and twelue, till he came to the king himselfe.
And then Maugre of Mahound, he bare the king downe.
Then Saracins folowed on a heap, to king Iour gan they leap.
And with force horsed him againe, and all at once on Sabere they laine.
Beuis saw Sabere was in doubt, and pressed forth among the rout.

And reſcued him in that ſtour, and himſelfe went to king Iour.
And led him forth all with force, and betooke ſir Sabere his horſe,
Into the tower they did him bring, and preſented Iour vnto the king.
Sabere led him all quicke, the Saraſines followed full thicke.
But ſuch ſtrokes gaue ſir Beuis, that king Iour away led is.
For any thing they might doe, and when they ſaw that it was ſo,
They would no longer there abyde, Beuis and his men did after ride.
And made on them ſo hard a chaſe, that ten thouſand ſlayne there was.
Many a knight in that field, were ſeene dead vnder their ſhield,
And many a Saraſine that day, with deathes woundes went away.
Many ſteedes men might ſee, without maiſters away flee.
And Saraſines men might heare, curſe Mahound they had ſuch feare.
When they had made that chaſe, they returned with great ſolace.
And ſir Beuis right anone, made caſt king Iour in priſon.
Then king Iour ſir Beuis prayed, that his raunſome might be payde.
And for a raunſome giue he wold, twentie tunnes of redde golde.
And three hundreth heads of ſilke, as many ſteedes white as milke.
An hundred cuppes of gold fine, and as many of Poſculine.
All this raunſome I ſhall thee giue, if thou now wilt let me liue.
Let thy ſeruant it bring, and I ſhall ſaue thy life ſir king.
For ſo much I dread not thee, but for this treaſure thou ſhalt goe free.
Then was king Iour faine, for it to ſend his chamberlayne.
And he brought it without delay, and for his king he did it pay.

OF king Iour let we be, and of king Ermine ſpeake we,
That ſhould paſſe out of this life, and ſent after his ſonne blyue.
For Guy was Beuis eldeſt ſonne, vpon his head he ſet the crowne.
And made him king of Armony, and ſone after haſtily,
Dyed king Ermine the hend, to heauen might his ſoule wend.
Unto ſir Beuis came Sabere, and tooke his leaue home to fare.
To England wonly he goe blyue, to his children and his wife.
Beuis bad him tarry verament, Sabere would not but home went.
Now is king Iour in Pambrant, and doth ſweare by Termagant,
That he would him well aduaunce, that might ſteale by any chaunce.
Good Arundell with ſome treaſon, from ſir Beuis of Southhampton.
And he might Arundell ſteale, I trow men might with him deale,
There was a theefe hight Robian, a quaint knaue and a foule felon.
He tooke on him the maiſtry, and went forth to Armony.

With his charmes and his craft, of Arundell Beuis he beraft.
And brought him into the towre, and presented him to king Iour.
Then was he well apayed, that Beuis was so betrayed.
Wo was Beuis the soth to say, when he misled Arundell away.
As Sabere slept at night tide, he thought he saw Beuis ride.
And Arundell downe him cast, that two of his ribbes there brast.
When he waked he was afrayed, vnto his wife the dreame he said.
Sir said she ye doe wrong, ye dwell from Beuis all to long.
By him that was of Mary borne, I trow he hath his horse forlorne.
Then Sabere for sir Beuis sake, burdon and scrip gan to take.
He went forth with good semblant, vntill he came to Mambrant.
Thether he went for to spye, and left the land of Armony.
Sir Sabere came by a riuer, where men did beasts water.
Where he saw as he abod, on Arundell how Robyan rode.
Sabere said by heauen king, true is now my dreaming.
Felow he said so Christ mée réede, this may be called a stréde.
He is brested without doubt, good fellow tourne thée about.
And as he tourned him there, vp behind lept sir Sabere.
And slew the théefe Robyan, with the ende of his tronchone.
He would no longer there abide, the Saracins to the court gan ride.
And to the king they did tell, how one had gotten Arundell.
Then rose the cry in the Cittie, that they should after them hie.
They rode after fast in band, to the number of thrée thousand.
And full narrowly him beset, Josian stode in a turet.
All the folke beheld she well, and one riding on Arundell.
Vnto the hall she hyed her downe, and said sir without the towne.
Commeth one riding on your stéede, and surely he is in great dread.
He is beset without doubt, with men of armes a great rout.
Jesu said Beuis a while him saue, and succour should he sone haue.
First on horse was sir Guy, his brother Miles and sir Terry.
And sir Beuis fast hied he, with all knights of that Citie.
He hied him fast in that stoure, and brought Sabere good succour.
And slew the Saracins downe right, that none of them scape might.
God gaue had Sabere to be séene, how they lay sprawling on the gréene.

TIdings came to king Iour, that his men were slaine in stoure.
He made to send hastely, after his brother king of Surry.
And told him how his men were dead, and asked him counsell & rad.

I shall thée say quod Bradwin, thou art holden a noble Sarasin.
In Pauy or in heathinnsse, is none to thée of doughtines.
Therefore I counsaile you so, ye do the battaile betwéene you two.
And make ready my fauchowne, and make my sacrifice to Mahoune.
That he send thée ouer hand, and forsooth I vnderstand.
That thou wilt a conquerour bée, and we will wend all with thée.
And stand with thee we will the while, and helpe thée in thy perill.
Now said king Jour I assent, and then smartly forth they went.
And made Mahound sacrifice, with all the Sarasins that were wise.
And they prayed withouten mis, their king might be saued from Beuis.
When the king had so done, to arme him he went full soone.
And went forth to armony, with thrée thousand men hardy.
Soone had Beuis tidings then, of king Jour and his men.
He tooke with him his sonnes two, Sabere and Terry and other mo.
And rode king Jour again, when Jour saw Beuis he was faine.
And said to Beuis I vnderstand, why ye be come into this land.
First he rauished me of my wife, and since bereft my men their life.
Therefore haue I taken counsaile, betwéene vs bold tattaile.
If thou me slay by Termagant, I graunt to thée the land of Mambrant
And if I thée slay not for thy, wilt thou graunt me Armony.
Beuis graunted as he had told, and vndertooke the battaile bold.
Into a place gan they ryde, enclosed with water on euery side.
They drew their swords hastely, and smote together with great enuie.
Their shields were brused ẏ they bare, their helmes crased their browes
Together they went another way, & Beuis hit Jour with Morglay. (tare
That his helme gan downe pare, there men might sée his head bare.
And a quarter of his shield, fell downe in the field.
Horse and man he downe gan driue, and fell to the ground that bliue.
Vp lept king Jour and stoode, and cryed on Mahound as he were woode.
And smote at Beuis with a fauchowne, ẏ Beuis of Arundel lighted downe
And right as Beuis downe lighting, Jour him smote without leysing.
Aboue sir Beuis helme on hye, that the crest downe gan flye.
And brused the helme in sunder, sir Beuis knéeled and that was wonder
Sir Beuis than was grieued sore, vp he lept without any more.
And gaue king Jour such a clout, he neuer rose after without doubt,
The Sarasins were wo ẏ stond, when they saw Jour dead on ẏ ground.
That he should neuer rise nor go, therefore they were full sory and wo.
The other people would haue fled, but Guy and Miles in that stéed.

Slew

Slew them more and lesse, or they might the water passe.
And some they drencht in that flood, there was none quicke againe yod.
Sir Beuis of puruetaunce, he toke king Iours countenaunce.
And made them it on them throw, ỹ no man might from Iour him know
A greater power with him to, and went to Wanbraunt that Cittie.
When they within the towre, saw the comming of king Iource.
All they were glad and faine, and opened the gates againe.
And Beuis to the citie gan ride, with great ioy and much pride.
And through that quint gin, that rich citie gan they win.
And made them all become his men, and did him homage then.
And they cursed their Mawmetrie, and beleued in God and our Lady.
And who that would not do so, immediately he did him slo.

NOw is Beuis king of that land, that sometime king Iour had in hand
Iosian that was bright & shene, twise thereof she hath ben Quene
Beuis and Sabere vppon a day, with haukes and hounds went to play.
As they came by a riuer, some they met a messenger.
He asked them after a knight, that sir Saber was by right.
Anon sir Sabere gan forth spring, and said messenger what tiding.
Sir he said Edgar our king, through his stewards counsailing.
He hath disherited thine heire, certes said Sabere that is not faire.
He rode to Beuis and said tho, and asked him leaue for to go.
Beuis said vnto sir Sabere, I will also goe thether.
With Iosian, Miles and sir Guy, and thy sonne sir Terry.
Thereof was sir Sabere glad, for great power with him he had.
And so went forth to England, with men of armes ten thousand.
And sailed to Southhampton, with many knights of renowne.
Saberes wife and Robert her heire, welcomed them all full faire.
And they did them to vnderstand, how all sir Sabers land.
The king arested without faile, through sir Brians counsaile,
Who saith he may take them away, for Arundell his sonne did slay.
Then said Beuis by God on liue, we will hie thether bliue.
Beuis rode forth with little boast, at Putneth he felt his boast.
It is from London miles thre, where he left his company.
And rode himselfe to London, saue twelue knights all alone.
Then he went to king Edgar, and asked him in what manner.
He had disherited sir Sabere, and his sonne that was his heire.
I deliuered him mine heritage, here before your baronage.

The king said to him right sone, sir Beuis if ought be mis done.
It shalbe mended in a parliament, with Earles and barons assent.
All the knights that were there, to sir Beuis made good chere.
Saue sir Brian, foule him be fall, he was his most foe of all.
Sir said Brian to the king, is not this a wondrous thing.
That this for banished swaine, is come into England againe.
Ye ought him to hang and draw, as a traitour against the law.
The king would pardon sir Beuis, but the Steward against it is.
Beuis was both wroth and wood, & aunswered neither ill nor good.
He toke his lodging in the towne, and at his meat sate him downe.
Then sir Briant forth went he, and made a cry through the citie.
All those that armes might beare, and fight with shield and speare.
That they should arme them anone, to auenge the kings sonne.
Then were the gates lockt, windowes and dores fast stopt,
Chaines drawen in euery streete, to let sir Beuis you may wete.
When Beuis heard that treason, vp he lept as a Lyon.
Full sone he earmed him tho, and bad his men for to goe.
Unto Putneth some priuy way, and to my sonnes do ye say.
That they bide them hether blithe, if they will haue me on liue.
For whiles I fight here without, ye may go void of doubt.
Beuis lept on Arundell, he had no longer time to dwell.
The first he met without fayle, was sir Bryan of Cornewayle.
He had with him a great rout, and beset Beuis round about.
And so sir Beuis said to Brian, turne thee as thou art a man.
Thou art an olde knight of warre, and to him he bare a speare.
So hard to Beuis he it droue, that the shield all to roue.
Then he houed and beheld, how the Steward broke the sheld.
Now said Beuis will I smite, and began that deede to quite.
He smote Arundell vnder the side, and with Morglay in that tide.
He hit Bryan on the crowne, and to the saddle cloue him downe.
Beuis sterred him in that stound, two hundred he cast to ground.
He rode forth into Broadstreete, many Lumbards did he mete.
And assailed Beuis wonders fast, on euery side he them downe cast.
Beuis had beene in many a land, and many battaile had in hand.
Yet he was neuer so woe a man, in any battaile as he was than.
But he defended him full well, and many of them he did sell.
On euery side downe he them cast, and did ride among them fast.
Till he came to the Cheape, where he found men on a heape.

Then

Then againe began the fight, betweene the citie and the knight.
Beuis said that was so good, to the folke that there stood.
I rede that ye vnlock the gate, and let me scape out there at.
For if I dye heere within, little worship should you win.
All against him did they crye, yelde thee Beuis or thou shalt dye.
Beuis fought as he were wood, and bathed Morglay in their blood.
fiue hundred men he cast to ground, and had neither wem nor wound.
But much blood of that man, through sweat of his body came.
Then it drew toward night, the people were still ready to fight.
Then began Arundell his stede, to help sir Beuis at his nede.
by twentie sote on euery side, durst no man that horse abyde.
And so lasted than that fight, betwene them all a somers night.
Sir Beuis knights I vnderstand, to Putneth brought their sond.
That Beuis sons should by the blue, if they wold haue their father a liue.
When Iosian heard them speake of Beuis, in a sowne fallen she is.
Sir Myles her sonne and sir Guy, toke her vp certainly.
Sonnes she said what is your rede, for certis your father is dead.
The best rede that I can, is that we slay euery man.
Nay said Myles we will not doe so, vnto our father will we go.
And bring him good succour, if he be liuing in that stoure.
And if that he slaine be, we will reuenged be truly.
We will destroy all that cittie, sone they were all readie.
Sir Guy destroyed Arum bright, he was heauy and not light.
Sir Beuis with his owne hand, wanne it in the holy land.
And a noble sword gan he take, that was sir Launcelots Du lake.
Miles had Arundell in his hand, that some time ought Rowland.
His horse as swift as a swallow, there might no horse him follow.
Ships toke he that tide, and ouer the temes gan they ride.
And brought with them to the cittie, ten thousand knights free.
They came at a water side, with much ioy and great pride.
At Ludgate they gan ariue, and slew all that they found a liue.
Certes Lordings I you say, by that sprang the light of the day.
Beuis was so wearie in that fight, that vnnethis he might sit vpright.
There dwelt a lumberd in that towne, a doughtie man of great renowne.
And he gathered a great hoast, and rode forth with great boast.
And in his hand a good fauchowne, that was made of steele browne.
And forth he pricked to sir Beuis, and said, wilt thou ake no trewes. 134
And than anon with his fauchone, he hit Beuis vpon the crowne.

Beuis for faintneſſe laid him low, and leaned vpon his ſaddle bow.
That ſaw Beuis ſonne ſir Guy, and gan prick with great enuie.
With his ſword drawen in his hand, and to the Lumbard ſent his ſand.
So hard on his head he it let, that through helme and baſonet.
Man and horſe in that ſtound, he ſmote a ſunder to the ground.
The point on the pauement glent, that the fire out went.
Sir Beuis for that ſtroke lough, and good comfort to him drought.
He thanked God omnipotent, that him helpe from heauen ſent.
Arundell for ioy nighed right, and helped Beuis for to fight.
Sir Beuis turned him in that while, and ſaw his other ſonne ſir Pyle.
Came pricking with a great rout, with many armed men him about.
He néeded neuer to ſéeke lech, that ſir Piles might ouer rech.
Men might heare crownes cracke, when Beuis ſonnes gan on take.
So hard they gan together méete, that the blood ran in euery ſtréete.
So many men were dead, that Thepeſide was of blood read.
For there was ſlaine I vnderſtand, to the number of thirtie thouſand.
Through the falſe ſtewards read, and yet he was the firſt dead.
It is true without leſing, of falſehood commeth no good ending.
In euery ſtréete men might ſée, men in great paine to dye.
Heads quartered with the thées, ſhankes cut of by the knées.
Hands and armes both cut out, heads with healms trembling about.
Dead bodies quartered in thrée, that it was great paine for to ſée.
When Beuis his enemies had deſtroyed, vnto Putneth he him hied.
Joſian was neuer ſo faine, as when ſhe ſaw Beuis againe.
Beuis toke Joſian full ſone, and to ſouthhampton came anon.
There he thought without faile, to abyde the king battaile.

## How the king tooke trwes with Beuis, and wedded his daughter to Miles, and made him Lord of Cornwall, that which longed to ſir Brian the kings ſteward which Beuis ſlew in the Citie of London.

Tidings

TIdings came to Edgare, of the fighting that was there.
King Edgare did full rights, send after barons and knights.
And said by my ſtewards rede, many of my men were dead.
I am now an olde man, and Beuis much of warre can.
He came hether from farre, with great power on me to warre.
Two ſonnes he hath brought, how to agree I take great thought.
Miles ſhall wed my daughter free, and ſo our ſtrife all waged ſhall bee.
He ſhall be Earle of Cornewaile, that was ſir Brians without faile,
All they counſailed them ſo, a meſſenger the king ſent tho.
To Beuis of Southhampton, and bad him come to London.
I will it be ordained ſo, to make a league betweene vs two,
Miles ſhall wed my daughter free, and Earle of Cornewall ſhall he bee,
Beuis is to London come, the wedding preſently begon,
The Lady to the Church was led, and to ſir Miles was ſhe wed,
The king gaue Miles in ſpouſaile, the earledome of Cornewaile,
There wes mirth at their ſpouſing, turnament and great iuſting,



At

At the spousaile in that maner, the king and Beuis sat full neere.
Now will Beuis home wend, he toke his leaue of the king so hend.
And the Lords in that while, and also of his sonne sir Mile.
He betoke his sonne to sir Sabere, that he should him teach and lere.
Beuis is gone and sir Guy, Joston and eke sir Terry.
Beuis left to them their land, and betoke them to Gods hand.
Unto Nambrant he did fare, and seuen yeere he liued there.
Then waxed Josian sicke and lay, and Beuis also as I you say.
Bishops and friers came bliue, Beuis and Josian for to shriue.
When Beuis & Josian the good, were humbled vnto God in mood.
Each turned to other without bost. and both they yelded vp the Ghost.
Much sorow made sir Guy, but it was no bote truely.
For we must be dead ywis, when that Christes will is.
Sir Guy to stable went he, Arundell his horse to see.
When he came there he found no read, for Arundell was also dead.
For Guy thought meruaile the loth to say, that all they dyed vpon a day.
Sir Guy did ordaine and make, for sir Beuis and Josians sake.
A place of religion and price, to sing for Josian and Beuis.
And tombed them together in feare, king and Queene as they were.
Jesu Christ in the Trinitie, on their soules haue mercy.
Thus endeth Beuis of Southhampton, king and knight of great renowne
And they that haue heard this talking, Jesu graunt them good ending.
And bring vs all to heauen blisse, that euer shall last and neuer misse.
Unto blesse bring vs hee, that for vs dyed vpon the tree.

Amen.

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East, dwelling in Aldersgate streete,
at the signe of the black
horse.